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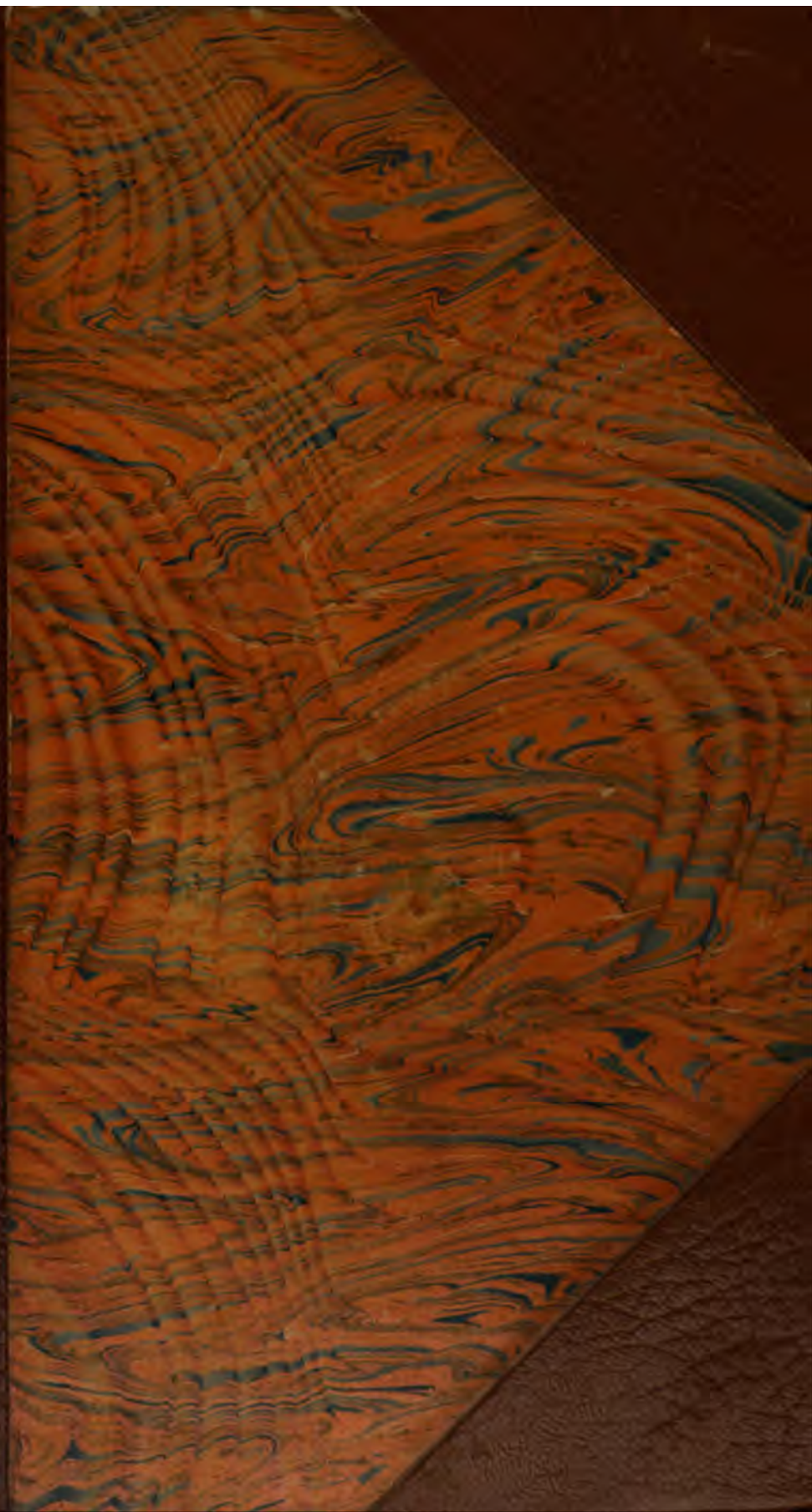
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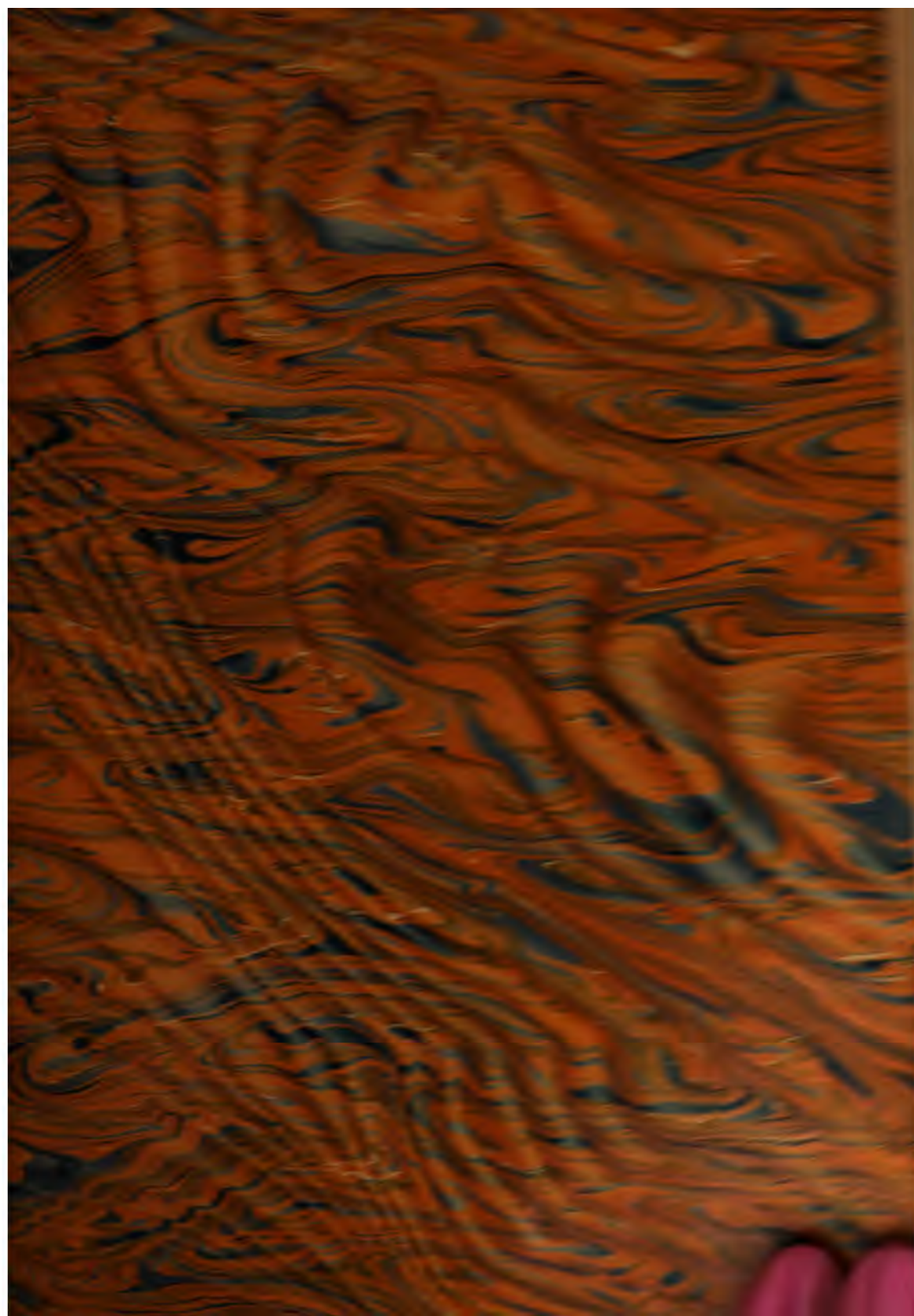
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THE COMPLEAT ANGLER

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Charles Cotton, Esq.

The Compleat Angler

OR THE

Contemplative MAN'S RECREATION

*Being a discourse of RIVERS, FISH PONDS
FISH & FISHING, written by*

Mr IZAAK WALTON

AND

*Instructions how to angle for a TROUT
or GRAYLING in a clear Stream by*

CHARLES COTTON, Esq.

Edited by GEORGE A. B. DEWAR, *with*
an Essay by SIR EDWARD GREY, Bart.,
& Numerous Etchings by WILLIAM STRANG
& D. Y. CAMERON. IN TWO VOLUMES.
VOLUME TWO.

THE WINCHESTER EDITION

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reprint in spelling and punctuation of
the Fifth (1676) Edition ; the last
published in Walton's lifetime.*

Contents

LIST OF FULL-PAGE ETCHINGS	<i>Page</i> vii
LIST OF SMALLER ILLUSTRATIONS	ix
"THE COMPLEAT ANGLER." PART I.— <i>continued</i>	I
A SHORT DISCOURSE BY WAY OF POSTSCRIPT	93
"THE CONTENTS"	99
"TO MY MOST WORTHY FATHER AND FRIEND, MR. IZAAK WALTON THE ELDER"	105
"THE COMPLEAT ANGLER, OR, THE CONTEM- PLATIVE MAN'S RECREATION." PART II.	107
"TO MY MOST HONOURED FRIEND, CHARLES COTTON, ESQ."	198
THE RETIREMENT—STANZES IRREGULIERS TO MR. IZAAK WALTON	200
NOTES	205
INDEX	213

List of Full-page Etchings

CHARLES COTTON, ESQ.	<i>W. Strang</i>	<i>Frontispiece</i>
WARE	<i>D. T. Cameron</i>	To face p. 11
BEAUFORT'S TOWER, ST. CROSS	"	29
"WELL MET, GENTLEMEN, THIS IS LUCKY THAT WE MEET SO JUST TOGETHER AT THE VERY DOOR"	<i>W. Strang</i>	39
"SEE HERE A BOY GATHERING LILIES AND LADY-SMOCKS, AND THERE A GIRL CROPPING CULVERKEYES AND COW- SLIPS"	"	50
THE DEANERY, WINCHESTER	<i>D. T. Cameron</i>	61
THE LEA, ABOVE WARE	"	72
THE CHAPEL, HADDON HALL	"	103
"YES, SIR, I AM FOR ONE PIPE OF TOBACCO; AND I PERCEIVE YOURS IS VERY GOOD BY THE SMELL"	<i>W. Strang</i>	128
THE WINDINGS OF THE WYE, NEAR BAKEWELL	<i>D. T. Cameron</i>	140
ON THE BRADFORD	"	144
DOVEDALE	"	152
THE VALLEY OF THE LATHEILL	"	166
"WHAT SHAME AND PITY IS IT THEN THAT SUCH A RIVER SHOULD BE DESTROYED BY THE BASEST SORT OF PEOPLE"	<i>W. Strang</i>	179
ON THE WYE AT HADDON	<i>D. T. Cameron</i>	193

List of Smaller Illustrations

BROXBOURNE	<i>D. T. Cameron</i>	Page 3
BREAM		5
LAVERSTOKE PARK	<i>D. T. Cameron</i>	11
TENCH		13
PERCH		16
THE BRADFORD, ABOVE ALLPORT	<i>D. T. Cameron</i>	20
EEL		26
BARREL		31
HEADPIECE	<i>W. Strang</i>	35
WALTON'S HOUSE IN FLEET STREET	<i>D. T. Cameron</i>	38
ST. DUNSTAN'S, LONDON	"	49
HEADPIECE	<i>W. Strang</i>	62
LOACH		63
BULL-HEAD		65
KINGSWORTHY	<i>D. T. Cameron</i>	76
FISHING-HOUSE, BERESFORD DALE	"	108
THE PEACOCK, ROWLEY	"	109
ALLPORT, ON THE BRADFORD	"	118
THE WYE, BETWEEN HADDON AND ROWLEY		129
THE WYE, NEAR ROWLEY	<i>D. T. Cameron</i>	136
HEADPIECE	<i>W. Strang</i>	154
HEADPIECE	"	170
HEADPIECE	"	181
WEST GATE, WINCHESTER	<i>D. T. Cameron</i>	184
"HERE RESTETH THE BODY OF IZAAK WALTON," WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL		203

THE
COMPLEAT ANGLER,
OR, THE
Contemplative MAN'S
R E C R E A T I O N.

PART I.—*Continued.*



CHAP. X.

Observations of the Bream, and directions to catch him.

P*isc.* The *Bream* being at a full growth is a large and stately Fish: he will breed both in Rivers and Ponds: but loves best to live in ponds, and where, if he likes the water and Air, he will grow not only to be very large, but as fat as a Hog: he is by *Gesner* taken to be more pleasant or sweet than wholesome; this Fish is long in growing, but breeds exceedingly in a water that pleases him; yea, in many Ponds so fast, as to over-store them, and starve the other Fish.

He is very broad with a forked tail, and his scales set in excellent order, he hath large eyes and a narrow sucking mouth ; he hath two sets of teeth, and a lozenge like bone, a bone to help his grinding. The Melter is observed to have two large Melts, and the Female two large bags of eggs or spawn.

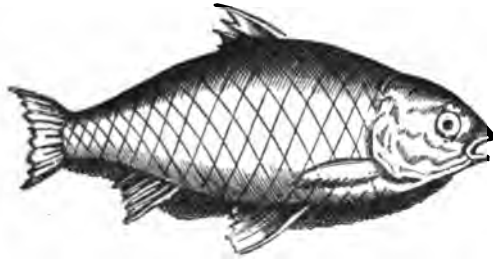
Gesner reports, that in *Poland* a certain, and a great number of large Breams were put into a Pond, which in the next following winter were frozen up into one intire ice, and not one drop of water remaining, nor one of these fish to be found, though they were diligently searcht for ; and yet the next Spring when the ice was thawed, and the weather warm, and fresh water got into the pond, he affirms they all appeared again. This *Gesner* affirms, and I quote my Author, because it seems almost as incredible as the *Resurrection* to an *Atheist*. But it may win something in point of believing it, to him that considers the breeding or renovation of the Silk-worm and of many insects. And that is considerable which Sir *Francis Bacon* observes in his History of Life and Death (*fol.* 20.) that there be some herbs that die and spring every year, and some endure longer.

But though some do not, yet the *French* esteem this Fish highly, and to that end have this Proverb, *He that hath Breams in his pond is able to bid his friend welcome*. And it is noted, that the best part of a Bream is his belly and head.

Some say, that *Breams* and *Roaches* will mix their eggs, and melt together, and so there is in many places a Bastard breed of *Breams*, that never come to be either large or good, but very numerous.

The Baits good to catch this *BREAM* are many. 1.

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an oven, or dried on a tile before the fire to make them tough ; or there is at the root of docks, or flags, or rushes in watry places, a worm not unlike a Maggot, at which Tench will bite freely. Or he will bite at a Grashopper with his legs nipt off in *June* and *July*, or at several flies under water, which may be found on flags that grow near to the water side. I doubt not but that there be many other baits that are good, but I will turn them all into this most excellent one, either for a *Carp* or *Bream*, in any River or Mere : it was given to me by a most honest and excellent Angler, and hoping you will prove both, I will impart it to you.

1. Let your bait be as big a *red worm* as you can find, without a knot, get a pint or quart of them in an evening in garden walks, or Chalky Commons after a showre of rain ; and put them with clean Moss well washed and picked, and the water squeezed out of the Moss as dry as you can, into an earthen pot or pipkin set dry, and change the Moss fresh every three or four dayes for three weeks or a month together, then your bait will be at the best, for it will be clear and lively.

2. Having thus prepared your baits, get your tackling ready and fitted for this sport. Take three long Angling Rods, and as many and more silk, or silk and hair lines, and as many large Swan or Goose-quil floats. Then take a piece of Lead made after this manner, and fasten them to the low-ends of your Lines. Then fasten your link-hook also to the lead, and let there be about a foot or ten inches between the lead and the hook ; but be sure the lead be heavy enough to sink the float or quil a little under the water, and not the quil to bear up the Lead, for the lead must lie on the ground. Note, that your link next the hook may be smaller than the rest of your line, if you dare adventure for fear of taking the *Pike* or *Pearch*, who will assuredly visit your hooks, till they be taken out (as I will shew you afterwards) before either *Carp* or *Bream* will come near to bite. Note also, that when the worm is well baited, it will crawl up and down, as far as the Lead will give leave, which much enticeth the Fish to bite without suspicion.



3. Having thus prepared your baits, and fitted your tackling, repair to the River, where you have seen them to swim in skuls or shoals in the Summer time in a hot afternoon, about three or four of the clock, and watch their going forth of their deep holes and returning (which you may well discern) for they return about four of the clock most of them seeking food at the bottom, yet one or two will lie on the top of the water, rolling and tumbling themselves whilst the rest are under him at the bottom, and so you shall perceive him to keep Sentinel ; then mark

where he plays most, and stays longest, (which commonly is in the broadest and deepest place of the River) and there, or, near thereabouts, at a clear bottom, and a convenient landing place, take one of your Angles ready fitted as aforesaid, and sound the bottom, which should be about eight or ten foot deep (two yards from the bank is the best.) Then consider with your self, whether that water will rise or fall by the next morning by reason of any Water-mills near, and according to your discretion take the depth of the place, where you mean after to cast your ground-bait, and to fish, to half an inch; that the Lead lying on or near the ground-bait, the top of the float may only appear upright half an inch above the water.

Thus you having found and fitted for the place and depth thereof, then go home and prepare your ground-bait, which is next to the fruit of your labours, to be regarded.

The Ground-Bait.

You shall take a peck, or a peck and a half (according to the greatness of the stream, and deepness of the water, where you mean to Angle) of sweet gross-ground barley-malt, and boil it in a kettle (one or two warms is enough) then strain it through a Bag into a tub (the liquor whereof hath often done my Horse much good) and when the bag and malt is near cold, take it down to the water-side about eight or nine of the clock in the evening, and not before; cast in two parts of your ground-bait, squeezed hard between both your hands, it will sink presently to the bottom, and be sure it may rest in the very place

where you mean to Angle ; if the stream run hard or move a little, cast your malt in handfuls a little the higher, upwards the stream. You may between your hands close the Malt so fast in handfuls, that the water will hardly part it with the fall.

Your ground thus baited, and tackling fitted, leave your bag with the rest of your tackling and ground-bait near the sporting-place all night, and in the morning about three or four of the clock visit the water-side (but not too near) for they have a cunning Watch-man, and are watchful themselves too.

Then gently take one of your three rods, and bait your hook, casting it over your ground-bait, and gently and secretly draw it to you till the Lead rests about the middle of the ground-bait.

Then take a second Rod and cast in about a yard above, and your third a yard below the first Rod, and stay the Rods in the ground, but go your self so far from the water-side, that you perceive nothing but the top of the floats, which you must watch most diligently ; then when you have a bite, you shall perceive the top of your float to sink suddenly into the water ; yet nevertheless be not too hasty to run to your Rods, until you see that the Line goes clear away, then creep to the water-side, and give as much Line as possibly you can : if it be a good *Carp* or *Bream*, they will go to the farther side of the River, then strike gently, and hold your Rod at a bent a little while ; but if you both pull together you are sure to lose your Game, for either your line or hook, or hold will break ; and after you have overcome them, they will make noble sport, and are very shie

to be landed. The *Carp* is far stronger and more mettlesom than the *Bream*.

Much more is to be observed in this kind of Fish and Fishing, but it is far better for experience and discourse than paper. Only thus much is necessary for you to know, and, to be mindful and careful of; That if the *Pike* or *Pearch* do breed in that River, they will be sure to bite first, and must first be taken. And for the most part they are very large, and will repair to your ground-bait, not that they will eat of it, but will feed and sport themselves amongst the young Fry, that gather about and hover over the Bait.

The way to discern the *Pike* and to take him, if you mistrust your *Bream*-hook (for I have taken a *Pike* a yard long several times at my *Bream*-hooks, and sometimes he hath had the luck to share my line.) May be thus.

Take a small *Bleak*, or *Roach*, or *Gudgion*, and bait it, and set it alive among your Rods two feet deep from the Cork, with a little red worm on the point of the hook, then take a few crums of Whitebread, or some of the ground-bait, and sprinkle it gently amongst your Rods. If Mr. *Pike* be there; then the little Fish will skip out of the water at his appearance but the live-set Bait is sure to be taken.

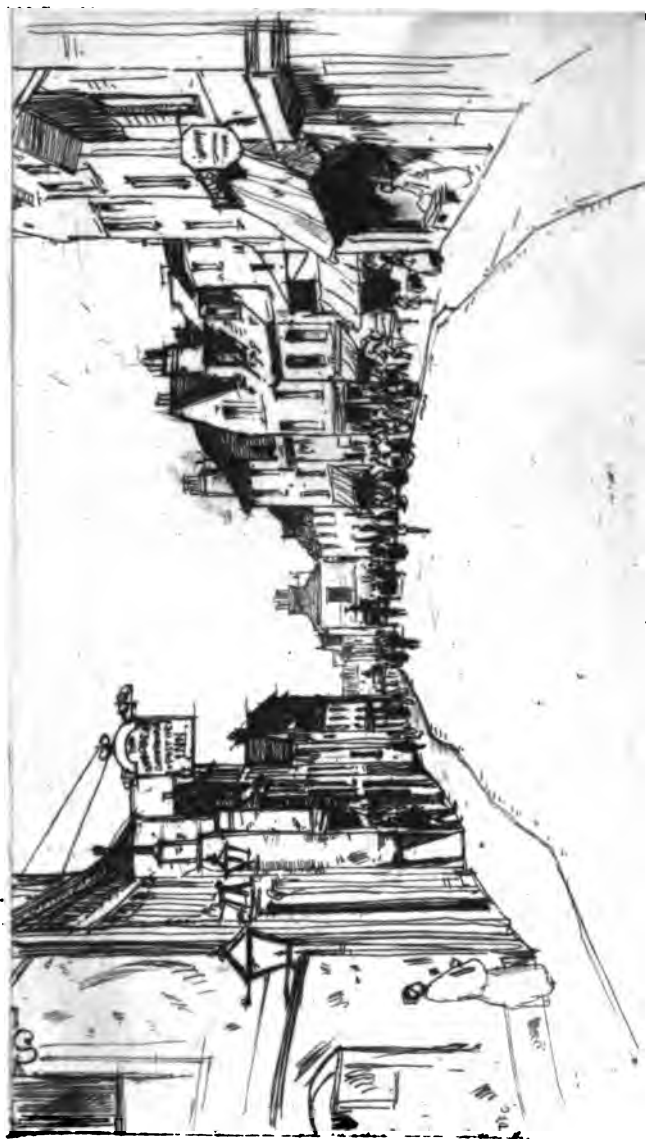
Thus continue your sport from four in the morning till eight, and if it be a gloomy, windy day, they will bite all day long. But this is too long to stand to your rods at one place, and it will spoil your evening sport that day, which is this.

About four of the clock in the Afternoon repair to your baited place, and as soon as you come to the

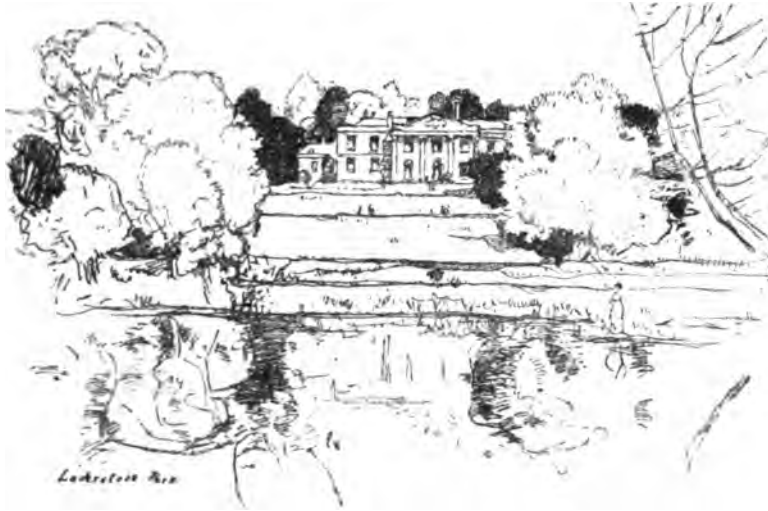
water side, cast in one half of the rest of your ground-bait, and stand off : then whilst the Fish are gathering together (for there they will most certainly come for their supper) you may take a pipe of Tobacco ; and then in with your three rods as in the morning : You will find excellent sport that evening till eight of the clock ; then cast in the residue of your ground-bait, and next morning by four of the clock visit them again for four hours, which is the best sport of all ; and after that let them rest till you and your friends have a mind to more sport.

From St. *James* Tide until *Bartholomew* Tide is the best, when they have had all the Summers food, they are the fattest.

Observe lastly, That after three or four days fishing together, your Game will be very shie and wary ; and you shall hardly get above a bite or two at a baiting ; then your only way is to desist from your sport about two or three days ; and in the mean time (on the place you late baited, and again intend to bait) you shall take a turf of green, but short grass, as big or bigger than a round Trencher ; to the top of this turf, on the green side, you shall with a Needle and green thred fasten one by one as many little red worms as will near cover all the turf : Then take a round board or Trencher, make a hole in the middle thereof, and through the turf placed on the board or Trencher, with a string or cord as long as is fitting, tied to a pole, let it down to the bottom of the water for the Fish to feed upon without disturbance about two or three days ; and after that you have drawn it away, you may fall to, and enjoy your former recreation. *B. A.*



Ware



CHAP. XI.

Observations of the Tench, and advice how to Angle for him.

PISC. The *Tench*, the Physician of Fishes, is observed to love Ponds better than Rivers, and to love pits better than either ; yet *Cambden* observes there is a River in *Dorsetshire* that abounds with *Tenches*, but doubtless they retire to the most deep and quiet places in it.

This fish hath very large Fins, very small and smooth Scales, a red circle about his Eyes, which are big and of a gold colour, and from either Angle of his mouth there hangs down a little Barb ; in every *Tenches* head there are two little stones, which forraign Physicians make great use of, but he is not

commended for wholsom meat, though there be very much use made of them, for outward applications. *Rondelitus* says. That at his being at *Rome*, he saw a great cure done by applying a *Tench* to the feet of a very sick man. This he says was done after an unusual manner by certain Jews. And it is observed that many of those people have many secrets, yet unknown to Christians; secrets that have never yet been written, but have been since the days of their *Solomon* (who knew the nature of all things, even from the Cedar to the Shrub) delivered by tradition from the Father to the Son, and so from generation to generation without writing, or (unless it were casually) without the least communicating them to any other Nation or Tribe: for to do that they account a prophanation. And yet it is thought that they, or some Spirit worse than they, first told us, that Lice swallowed alive were a certain cure for the Yellow-Jaundice. This, and many other medicines, were discover'd by them or by revelation, for, doubtless we attain'd them not by study.

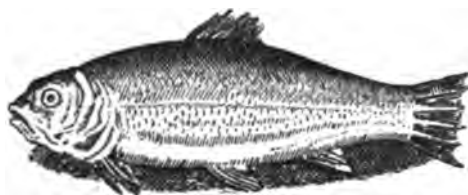
Well, this fish, besides his eating, is very useful both dead and alive for the good of mankind. But, I will meddle no more with that, my honest humble Art teaches no such boldness; there are too many foolish medlers in Physick and Divinity, that think themselves fit to meddle with hidden secrets, and so bring destruction to their followers. But I'll not meddle with them any farther than to wish them wiser; and shall tell you next (for, I hope, I may be so bold) that the *Tench* is the Physician of fishes, for the *Pike* especially, and that the *Pike*, being either sick or

hurt, is cured by the touch of the *Tench*. And it is observed, that the Tyrant *Pike* will not be a Wolf to his Physician, but forbears to devour him though he be never so hungry.

This fish that carries a natural Balsome in him to cure both himself and others, loves yet to feed in very foul water, and amongst weeds. And yet I am sure he eats pleasantly, and doubtless, you will think so too, if you tast him. And I shall therefore proceed to give you some few, and but a few directions how to catch this *Tench*, of which I have given

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L o b -



t h e s e
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worm;

he inclines very much to any paste with which Tar is mixt, and he will bite also at a smaller worm, with his head nipp'd off, and a Cod-worm put on the hook before that worm; and I doubt not but that he will also in the three hot months (for in the nine colder he stirs not much) bite at a Flag-worm, or at a green Gentle, but can positively say no more of the *Tench*, he being a Fish that I have not often Angled for; but I wish my honest Scholar may, and be ever fortunate when he fishes.

CHAP. XII.

Observations on the Pearch, and directions how to fish for him.

PISC. The *Pearch* is a very good, and a very bold biting fish; He is one of the Fishes of prey, that like the *Pike* and *Trout*, carries his teeth in his mouth: which is very large, and he dare venture to kill and devour several other kinds of fish: he has a hook't or hog back, which is armed with sharp and stiff bristles, and all his skin armed or covered over with thick, dry, hard scales, and hath (which few other Fish have) two Fins on his back: He is so bold, that he will invade one of his own kind, which the *Pike* will not do so willingly, and, you may therefore easily believe him to be a bold biter.

The *Pearch* is of great esteem in *Italy* saith *Aldrovandus*, and especially the least are there esteemed a dainty dish. And *Gesner* prefers the *Pearch* and *Pike* above the *Trout*, or any fresh-water-Fish: he

says the *Germans* have this Proverb, *More wholsom than a Pearch of Rhine* : and he says the River-*Pearch* is so wholsom, that Physicians allow him to be eaten by wounded men or by men in Feavers, or by Women in Child-bed.

He spawns but once a year, and is by Physicians held very nutritive : yet by many to be hard of digestion : They abound more in the River *Poe* and in *England* (says *Rondelitus*) than other parts, and have in their brain a stone, which is in forraign parts sold by Apothecaries, being there noted to be very medicinable against the stone in the reins : These be a part of the commendations which some Philosophical brains have bestowed upon the fresh-water *Pearch* : yet they commend the Sea-*Pearch*, which is known by having but one fin on his back (of which they say, we *English* see but a few) to be a much better fish.

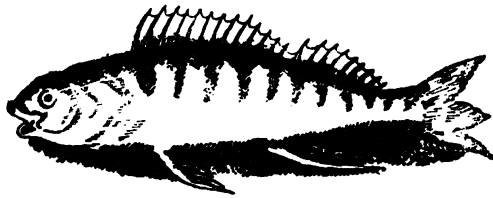
The *Pearch* grows slowly, yet will grow, as I have been credibly informed, to be almost two foot long ; for an honest informer told me, such a one was not long since taken by Sir *Abraham Williams*, a Gentleman of worth, and a Brother of the Angle (that yet lives, and I wish he may :) this was a deep bodied Fish : and doubtless durst have devoured a *Pike* of half his own length : for I have told you, he is a bold Fish, such a one as but for extreme hunger, the *Pike* will not devour : for to affright the *Pike* and save himself, the *Pearch* will set up his fins, much like as a *Turkie-Cock* will sometimes set up his tail.

But, my Scholar, the *Pearch* is not only valiant

to defend himself, but he is (as I said) a bold biting fish, yet he will not bite at all seasons of the year; he is very abstemious in Winter, yet will bite then in the midst of the day if it be warm: and note that all Fish bite best about the midst of a warm day in Winter, and he hath been observed by some, not usually to bite till the *Mulberry-tree* buds; that is to say, till extreme frosts be past the Spring; for when the *Mulberry-tree* blossoms, many Gardners observe their forward fruit to be past the danger of Frosts, and some have made the like observation of the *Pearches* biting.

But bite the *Pearch* will, and that very boldly: and as one has wittily observed, if there be twenty or forty in a hole, they may be at one standing all catch'd one after another; they being, as he says, like the wicked of the world, not afraid though their fellows and companions perish in their sight. And you may observe, that they are not like the solitary *Pike*, but love to accompany one another, and march together in troops.

And the baits for this bold Fish are not many; I mean, he will bite as well at some, or at any three, as of these or all whatsoever: a *Minnow*, or a little *Worm*, or *Frog* (of which you may find many in hay-time) and of



worms, the Dunghil-worm called a *Brandling* I take to be best, being well scowred in Moss or Fennel; or he will bite at a worm that lies under a cow-turd with a blewish head. And if you *rove* for a *Pearch* with a *Minnow*, then it is best to be alive, you sticking your hook through his back-fin; or a *Minnow* with the hook in his upper lip, and letting him swim up and down about mid-water, or a little lower, and you still keeping him to about that depth, by a Cork, which ought not to be a very little one: and the like way you are to Fish for the *Pearch*, with a small frog, your hook being fastned through the skin of his leg, towards the upper part of it: And lastly, I will give you but this advice, that you give the *Pearch* time enough when he bites, for there was scarce ever any Angler that has given him too much. And now I think best to rest my self, for I have almost spent my spirits with talking so long.

Venat. Nay, good Master, one fish more, for you see it rains still, and you know our Angles are like mony put to usury; they may thrive though we sit still and do nothing but talk and enjoy one another. Come, come the other fish, good Master.

Pisc. But Scholar, have you nothing to mix with this discourse, which now grows both tedious and tiresom? shall I have nothing from you that seem to have both a good memory, and a chearful Spirit?

Ven. Yes, Master, I will speak you a Copy of Verses that were made by Doctor *Donne*, and made to shew the world that he could make soft and smooth Verses when he thought smoothness worth

his labour; and I love them the better, because they allude to Rivers, and fish and fishing. They be these :

*Come live with me, and be my Love,
And we will some new pleasures prove,
Of golden sands, and Chrystal brooks,
With silken lines, and silver hooks.*

*There will the River whispering run,
Warm'd by thy eyes more than the Sun ;
And there the enamel'd fish will stay,
Begging themselves they may betray.*

*When thou wilt swim in that live bath,
Each fish, which every channel hath,
Most amorously to thee will swim,
Gladder to catch thee, than thou him.*

*If thou, to be so seen, beest loath
By Sun or Moon, thou darknest both,
And if mine eyes have leave to see,
I need not their light, having thee.*

*Let others freeze with Angling reeds,
And cut their legs with shels and weeds,
Or treacherously poor fish beset,
With strangling snares, or windy net.*

*Let course bold hands, from slimy nest,
The bedded fish in banks outwrest,
Let curious Traytors sleave silk flies,
To 'witch poor wandring fishes eyes.*

*For thee, thou needst no such deceit,
For thou thy self art thine own bait :
That fish that is not catcht thereby,
Is wiser far, alas, than I.*

Pisc. Well remembred, honest Scholar, I thank

you for these choice Verses, which I have heard formerly, but had quite forgot, till they were recovered by your happy memory. Well, being I have now rested my self a little, I will make you some requital, by telling you some observations of the *Eel*, for it rains still, and because (as you say) our *Angles* are as mony put to Use that thrives when we play, therefore we'l sit still and enjoy our selves a little longer under this *honey-suckle-hedg*.



CHAP. XIII.

*Observations of the Eel, and other fish that want scales,
and how to fish for them.*

P*isc.* It is agreed by most men, that the *Eel* is a most daintie fish; the Romans have esteemed her the *Helena* of their feasts, and some *The Queen of palat pleasure*. But most men differ about their breeding: some say they breed by generation as other fish do, and others, that they breed (as some worms do) of mud, as Rats and Mice, and many other living creatures are bred in *Egypt*, by the Suns heat when it shines upon the overflowing of the River *Nilus*: or out of the putrefaction of the earth, and divers other wayes. Those that deny them to breed by generation as other fish do; ask: if any man ever saw an *Eel* to have a Spawn or Melt? and

they are answered, that they may be as certain of their breeding as if they had seen Spawn: for they say, that they are certain that *Eels* have all parts fit for generation, like other fish, but so small as not to be easily discerned, by reason of their fatness, but that discerned they may be, and that the He and the She *Eel* may be distinguished by their fins. And *Rondelitus* saies, he has seen *Eels* cling together like *Dew-worms*.

And others say, that *Eels* growing old breed other *Eels* out of the corruption of their own age, which Sir *Francis Bacon* sayes, exceeds not ten years. And others say, that as *Pearls* are made of glutinous dew-drops, which are condensed by the Suns heat in those Countries, so *Eels* are bred of a particular dew falling in the months of *May* or *June* on the banks of some particular Ponds or Rivers (apted by nature for that end) which in a few dayes are by the Suns heat turned into *Eels*, and some of the Ancients have called the *Eels* that are thus bred, *The Off-spring of Jove*. I have seen in the beginning of *July*, in a River not far from *Canterbury*, some parts of it covered over with young *Eels*, about the thickness of a straw; and these *Eels* did lie on the top of that water, as thick as motes are said to be in the Sun: and I have heard the like of other Rivers, as namely in *Severn*, (where they are called *Yelvers*) and in a pond or mere near unto *Stafford-shire*, where about a set time in Summer, such small *Eels* abound so much, that many of the poorer sort of people, that inhabit near to it take such *Eels* out of this Mere, with sieves or sheets, and make a kind of Eel-cake of them,

and eat it like as Bread. And *Gesner* quotes venerable *Bede* to say, that in *England* there is an Island called *Ely*, by reason of the innumerable number of *Eels* that breed in it. But that *Eels* may be bred as some worms, and some kind of *Bees* and *Wasps* are, either of *dew*, or out of the corruption of the earth, seems to be made probable by the *Barnacles* and young *Goslings* bred by the Suns heat, and the rotten planks of an old Ship, and hatched of trees; both which are related for truths by *Dubartas* and *Lobel*, and also by our learned *Cambden*, and laborious *Gerard* in his *Herbal*.

It is said by *Rondelitus*, that those *Eels* that are bred in Rivers that relate to, or be nearer to the Sea, never return to the fresh waters (as the *Salmon* does always desire to do) when they have once tasted the salt water; and I do the more easily believe this, because I am certain that powdered Beef is a most excellent bait to catch an *Eel*: and though Sir *Francis Bacon* will allow the *Eels* life to be but ten years; yet he in his History of Life and Death, mentions a *Lamprey* belonging to the *Roman* Emperour to be made tame, and so kept for almost threescore years: and that such useful and pleasant observations were made of this *Lamprey*, that *Crassus* the Orator (who kept her) lamented her Death. And we read (in Doctor *Hackwel*) that *Hortensius* was seen to weep at the death of a *Lamprey* that he had kept long, and loved exceedingly.

It is granted by all, or most men, that *Eels*, for about six months (that is to say, the six cold months of the year) stir not up and down, neither in the

Rivers, nor in the Pools in which they usually are, but get into the soft earth or mud, and there many of them together bed themselves, and live without feeding upon any thing (as I have told you some *Swallows* have been observed to do in hollow trees for those six cold months :) and this the *Eel* and *Swallow* do, as not being able to endure winter weather : For *Gesner* quotes *Albertus*, to say, that in the year 1125. (that years winter being more cold than usually) *Eels* did by natures instinct get out of the water into a stack of hay in a Meadow upon drie ground, and there bedded themselves, but yet at last a frost kill'd them. And our *Cambden* relates, that in *Lancashire* Fishes were dig'd out of the earth with Spades, where no water was near to the place. I shall say little more of the *Eel*, but that, as it is observed he is impatient of cold ; so it hath been observed, that in warm weather an *Eel* has been known to live five days out of the water.

And lastly, let me tell you that some curious searchers into the natures of Fish, observe that there be several sorts or kinds of *Eels*, as the *silver Eel*, and green or *greenish Eel* (with which the River of *Thames* abounds, and those are called *Grigs* ;) and a *blackish Eel*, whose head is more flat and bigger than ordinary *Eels* ; and also an *Eel* whose Fins are reddish, and but seldom taken in this Nation, (and yet taken sometimes :) These several kinds of *Eels* are (say some) diversly bred, as namely, out of the corruption of the earth, and some by dew, and other ways, (as I have said to you :) and yet it is

affirmed by some for a certain, that the *silver Eel* is bred by generation, but not by Spawning as other Fish do, but that her brood come alive from her, being then little live Eels no bigger nor longer than a pin ; and I have had too many testimonies of this to doubt the truth of it my self, and if I thought it needful I might prove it, but I think it is needless.

And this Eel of which I have said so much to you, may be caught with divers kinds of Baits : as namely with powdered Beef, with a *Lob* or *Garden-worm*, with a *Minnow*, or gut of a *Hen*, *Chicken* or the guts of any Fish, or with almost any thing, for he is a greedy Fish ; but the Eel may be caught especially with a little, a very little *Lamprey* which some call a *Pride*, and may in the hot months be found many of them in the River *Thames*, and in many mud-heaps in other Rivers, yea, almost as usually as one finds worms in a dunghill.

Next note, that the Eel seldom stirs in the day, but then hides himself, and therefore he is usually caught by night with one of these baits of which I have spoken, and may be then caught by laying hooks, which you are to fasten to the bank or twigs of a tree ; or by throwing a string cross the stream with many hooks at it, and those baited with the aforesaid Baits, and a clod, or plummet, or stone, thrown into the River with this line, that so you may in the morning find it near to some fixt place, and then take it up with a Drag-hook or otherwise : but these things are indeed too common to be spoken of, and an hours fishing with any Angler will teach

you better, both for these and many other common things in the practical part of *Angling*, than a weeks discourse. I shall therefore conclude this direction for taking the *Eel*, by telling you, that in a warm day in Summer I have taken many a good Eel by *snigling* and have been much pleased with that sport.

And because you that are but a young Angler know not what *snigling* is, I will now teach it to you. You remember I told you that Eels do not usually stir in the day time, for then they hide themselves under some covert, or under boards or planks about Flood-gates, or Weires, or Mills, or in holes in the River banks ; so that you observing your time in a warm day, when the water is lowest, may take a strong small hook tied to a strong line, or to a string about a yard long, and then into one of these holes, or between any boards about a Mill, or under any great stone or plank, or any place where you think an Eel may hide or shelter her self, you may with the help of a short stick put in your bait, but leasurely, and as far as you may conveniently : and it is scarce to be doubted, but that if there be an Eel within the sight of it, the Eel will bite instantly, and as certainly gorge it : and you need not doubt to have him if you pull him not out of the hole too quickly, but pull him out by degrees, for he lying folded double in his hole, will with the help of his tail break all, unless you give him time to be wearied with pulling, and so get him out by degrees, not pulling too hard.

And to commute for your patient hearing

this long
makethis
most ex-
dish of

First,
in water
then pull
below his
navel, and
further:



EEL a
cellent
meat:

wash him
and salt,
of his skin
vent or
not much
having

done that, take out his guts as clean as you can, but wash him not: then give him three or four scotches with a knife, and then put into his belly and those scotches, sweet herbs, an Anchovy, and a little Nutmeg grated or cut very small, and your herbs and Anchovis must also be cut very small, and mixt with good butter and salt; having done this, then pull his skin over him all but his head, which you are to cut off, to the end you may tie his skin about that part where his head grew, and it must be so tyed as to keep all his moisture within his skin: and having done this, tie him with Tape or Packthred to a spit, and rost him leasurely, and baste him with water and salt till his skin breaks, and then with Butter: and having rosted him enough, let what was put into his belly, and what he drips be his sawce.

S. F.

When I go to dress an Eel thus, I wish he were as long and big, as that which was caught in *Peterborough River* in the year 1667. which was a yard and three quarters long. If you will not believe me? then go and see at one of the *Coffee-houses* in *Kingstreet* in *Westminster*.

But now let me tell you, that though the Eel thus drest be not only excellent good, but more harmless than any other way, yet it is certain, that Physicians account the Eel dangerous meat ; I will advise you therefore, as *Solomon* says of Honey, Prov. 25. *Hast thou found it, eat no more than is sufficient, lest thou surfeit, for it is not good to eat much honey.* And let me add this that the uncharitable *Italian* bids us, *Give Eels, and no wine to our Enemies.*

And I will beg a little more of your attention to tell you that *Aldrovandus* and divers Physicians commend the Eel very much for medicine though not for meat. But let me tell you one observation ; That the Eel is never out of season, as *Trouts* and most other fish are set time, at least most Eels are not.

I might here speak of many other Fish whose shape and nature are much like the Eel, and frequent both the *Sea* and fresh Rivers ; as namely the *Lamprel*, the *Lamprey* and the *Lamperne* : as also of the mighty *Conger*, taken often in *Severn*, about *Glocester* ; and might also tell in what high esteem many of them are for the curiosity of their taste ; but these are not so proper to be talk'd of by me, because they make us Anglers no sport, therefore I will let them alone as the Jews do, to whom they are forbidden by their Law.

And Scholar, there is also a Flounder, a Sea-fish, which will wander very far into fresh Rivers, and there lose himself, and dwell and thrive to a hands breadth, and almost twice so long, a fish without scales, and most excellent meat, and a fish that affords much sport to the Angler, with any small worm, but

especially a little blewish worm, gotten out of Marsh ground or Meadows, which should be well scowred, but this though it be most excellent meat, yet it wants scales, and is as I told you therefore an abomination to the Jews.

But Scholar, there is a fish that they in *Lancashire* boast very much of, called a *Char*, taken there, (and I think there only) in a Mere called *Winander Mere*; a Mere, says *Cambden*, that is the largest in this Nation, being ten miles in length, and some say as smooth in the bottom as if it were paved with polisht marble: this fish never exceeds fifteen or sixteen inches in length; and 'tis spotted like a *Trout*, and has scarce a bone but on the back: but this, though I do not know whether it make the Angler sport, yet I would have you take notice of it, because it is a rarity, and of so high esteem with persons of great note.

Nor would I have you ignorant of a rare fish called a *Guiniad*, of which I shall tell you what *Cambden*, and others speak. The River *Dee* (which runs by *Chester*) springs in *Merionethshire*, and as it runs toward *Chester* it runs through *Pemle-Mere*, which is a large water: And it is observed, that though the River *Dee* abounds with *Salmon*, and *Pemle-Mere* with the *Guiniad*, yet there is never any *Salmon* caught in the *Mere*, nor a *Guiniad* in the River. And now my next observation shall be of the *Barbel*.





Beaufort's Tower, St. Cross

CHAP. XIV.

*Observations of the Barbel, and directions how to fish
for him.*

PISC. The *Barbel* is so called (says *Gesner*) by reason of his Barb or Wattels at his mouth, which are under his nose or chaps. He is one of those leather-mouthed Fishes that I told you of, that does very seldom break his hold if he be once hook'd : but he is so strong, that he will often break both rod or line if he proves to be a big one.

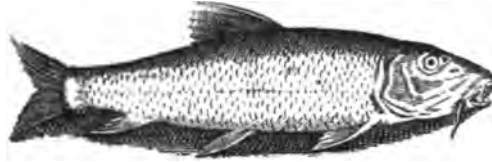
But the *Barbel*, though he be of a fine shape, and looks big, yet he is not accounted the best fish to eat, neither for his wholsomness nor his taste: But the Male is reputed much better than the Female, whose Spawn is very hurtful, as I will presently declare to you.

They flock together like sheep, and are at the worst in *April*, about which time they Spawn, but quickly grow to be in season. He is able to live in the strongest swifts of the Water, and in Summer they love the shallowest and sharpest streams ; and love to lurk under weeds, and to feed on gravel

against a rising ground, and will root and dig in the sands with his nose like a hog, and there nests himself: yet sometimes he retires to deep and swift Bridges, or Flood-gates, or Weires, where he will nest himself amongst piles, or in hollow places, and take such hold of moss or weeds, that be the water never so swift, it is not able to force him from the place that he contends for. This is his constant custom in Summer, when he and most living creatures sport themselves in the Sun, but at the approach of Winter, then he forsakes the swift streams and shallow waters, and by degrees retires to those parts of the River that are quiet and deeper; in which places (and I think about that time) he Spawns, and as I have formerly told you, with the help of the Melter, hides his Spawn or eggs in holes, which they both dig in the gravel, and then they mutually labour to cover it with the same sand, to prevent it from being devoured by other fish.

There be such store of this fish in the River *Danubie*, that *Rondelitus* says, they may in some places of it, and in some months of the year, be taken by those that dwell near to the River, with their hands, eight or ten load at a time; he says, they begin to be good in *May*, and that they cease to be so in *August*, but it is found to be otherwise in this Nation: but thus far we agree with him, that the Spawn of a *Barbel*, if it be not poison as he says, yet that it is dangerous meat, and especially in the month of *May*; which is so certain, that *Gesner* and *Gasius* declare, it had an ill effect upon them even to the endangering of their lives.

This fish is of a fine cast and handsome shape,
 with small scales, which are pla-
 a most c'd after
 and curi- e x a c t
 ner, and, ous man-
 y o u, as I told
 rather may be
 to be ill, said not
 than to
 be good meat : the *Chub* and he have (I think) both
 lost part of their credit by ill cookery, they being
 reputed the worst or coarsest of fresh-water-fish : but
 the *Barbel* affords an *Angler* choice sport, being a
 lusty and a cunning Fish : so lusty and cunning as
 to endanger the breaking of the Anglers line, by
 running his head forcibly towards any covert, or hole,
 or bank : and then striking at the line to break it off
 with his tail (as is observed by *Plutarch*, in his Book
de industria animalium) and also so cunning to nibble
 and suck off your worm close to the hook, and yet
 avoid the letting the hook come into his mouth.



The *Barbel* is also curious for his baits, that is to
 say, that they be clean and sweet ; that is to say, to
 have your worms well scowred, and not kept in sowre
 and musty moss, for he is a curious feeder ; but at a
 well-scowred Lob-worm, he will bite as boldly as at
 any bait, and specially, if the night or two before you
 fish for him, you shall bait the places where you
 intend to fish for him with big worms cut into pieces :
 and note, that none did ever over-bait the place, nor
 fish too early or too late for a *Barbel*. And the

Barbel will bite also at Gentles, which (not being too much scowred, but green) are a choice bait for him ; and so is cheese, which is not to be too hard, but kept a day or two in a wet linnen cloth to make it tough : with this you may also bait the water a day or two before you fish for the *Barbel*, and be much the likelier to catch store : and if the cheese were laid in clarified honey a short time before (as namely, an hour or two) you were still the likelier to catch Fish : some have directed to cut the cheese into thin pieces, and toast it, and then tie it on the hook with fine silk : and some advise to fish for the *Barbel* with Sheeps tallow and soft cheese beaten or work'd into a Paste, and that it is choicely good in *August*, and I believe it : but doubtless the Lob-worm well scowred, and the Gentle not too much scowred, and cheese ordered as I have directed, are baits enough, and I think will serve in any month ; though I shall commend any Angler that tries conclusions, and is industrious to improve the Art. And now, my honest Scholar, the long shower, and my tedious discourse are both ended together : and I shall give you but this Observation, that when you fish for a *Barbel*, your Rod and Line be both long, and of good strength, for (as I told you) you will find him a heavy and a dogged fish to be dealt withall, yet he seldom or never breaks his hold if he be once stucken. And if you would know more of fishing for the *Umber* or *Barbel*, get into favour with Doctor *Sheldon*, whose skill is above others ; and of that the Poor that dwell about him have a comfortable experience.

And now lets go and see what interest the *Trouts* will pay us for letting our *Angle-rods* lie so long, and so quietly in the water for their use. Come, Scholar, which will you take up?

Ven. Which you think fit, Master.

Pisc. Why, you shall take up that, for I am certain by viewing the Line, it has a Fish at it. Look you, Scholar : well done. Come now, take up the other too ; well, now you may tell my brother *Peter* at night, that you have caught a leash of *Trouts* this day. And now lets move toward our lodging, and drink a draught of *Red-Cows Milk*, as we go, and give pretty *Maudlin* and her honest mother a brace of *Trouts* for their supper.

Venat. Master, I like your motion very well and I think it is now about milking time, and yonder they be at it.

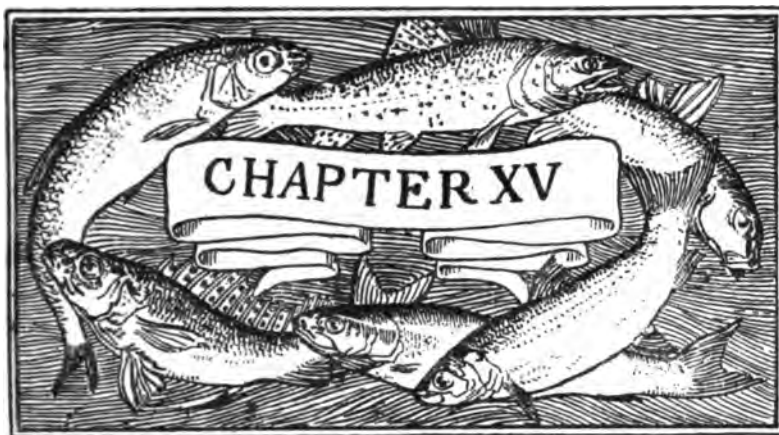
Pisc. God speed you, good woman, I thank you both for our Songs last night ; I and my companion have had such fortune a fishing this day, that we resolve to give you and *Maudlin* a brace of *Trouts* for supper, and we will now tast a draught of your *Red-Cows milk*.

Milkw. Marry, and that you shall with all my heart, and I will be still your debtor when you come this way : if you will but speak the word, I will make you a good *Sillabub*, of new Verjuice, and then you may sit down in a *haycock* and eat it, and *Maudlin* shall sit by and sing you the good old Song of the *Hunting in Chevy Chase*, or some other good Ballad, for she hath good store of them ; *Maudlin*, my honest *Maudlin* hath a notable memory, and she thinks

nothing too good for you, because you be such honest men.

Venat. We thank you, and intend once in a month to call upon you again, and give you a little warning, and so good night : good night *Maudlin*. And now, good Master, lets lose no time ; but tell me somewhat more of Fishing, and if you please, first something of Fishing for a *Gudgion*.

Pisc. I will, honest Scholar.



*Observations of the Gudgion, the Ruffe and the Bleak,
and how to fish for them.*

THE *Gudgion* is reputed a Fish of excellent tast, and to be very wholsom: he is of a fine shape, of a silver colour, and beautified with black spots both on his body and tail. He breeds two or three times in the year, and always in Summer. He is commended for a Fish of excellent nourishment: the *Germans* call him *Groundling*, by reason of his feeding on the ground: and he there feasts himself in sharp streams, and on the gravel, He and the *Barbel* both feed so, and do not hunt for flies at any time, as most other Fishes do: he is an excellent fish to enter a young Angler, being easie to be taken with a small red worm, on or very near to the

ground. He is one of those leather-mouthed fish that has his teeth in his throat, and will hardly be lost off from the hook if he be once stucken : they be usually scattered up and down every River in the shallows, in the heat of Summer : but in *Autumn*, when the weeds begin to grow sower or rot, and the weather colder, then they gather together, and get into the deeper parts of the water : and are to be Fished for there, with your hook always touching the ground, if you Fish for him with a flote, or with a cork : But many will Fish for the *Gudgion* by hand, with a running line upon the ground, without a cork, as a *Trout* is fished for, and it is an excellent way, if you have a gentle rod and as gentle a hand.

There is also another Fish called a *Pope*, and by some a *Ruffe*, a Fish that is not known to be in some Rivers, he is much like the *Pearch* for his shape, and taken to be better than the *Pearch*, but will not grow to be bigger than a *Gudgion* ; he is an excellent Fish, no Fish that swims is of a pleasanter tast, and he is also excellent to enter a young *Angler*, for he is a greedy biter, and they will usually lie abundance of them together in one reserved place where the water is deep, and runs quietly ; and an easie Angler, if he has found where they lie, may catch forty or fifty, or sometimes twice so many at a standing.

You must Fish for him with a small red-worm, and if you bait the ground with earth, it is excellent.

There is also a *Bleak*, or fresh-water-Sprat, a Fish

that is ever in motion, and therefore called by some the *River-Swallow*; for just as you shall observe the *Swallow* to be most evenings in Summer, ever in motion, making short and quick turns when he flies to catch Flies in the air (by which he lives) so does the *Bleak* at the top of the water. *Ausonius* would have him called *Bleak* from his whitish colour: his back is of a pleasant sad or Sea-water-green, his belly white and shining as the Mountain-snow: and doubtless though he have the fortune (which vertue has in poor people) to be neglected, yet the *Bleak* ought to be much valued, though we want *Allamot* salt, and the skill that the *Italians* have to turn them into Anchovis. This fish may be caught with a *Paternoster* line, that is, six or eight very small hooks tyed along the line one half a foot above the other: I have seen five caught thus at one time, and the bait has been Gentles, than which none is better.

Or this fish may be caught with a fine small artificial flie, which is to be of a very sad, brown colour, and very small, and the hook answerable. There is no better sport than whipping for *Bleaks* in a boat, or on a bank in the swift water in a Summers evening, with a Hazle top about five or six foot long, and a line twice the length of the Rod, I have heard Sir *Henry Wotton* say, that there be many that in *Italy* will catch *Swallows* so, or especially *Martins* (this *Bird-angler* standing on the top of a Steeple to do it, and with a line twice so long as I have spoken of:) And let me tell you, Scholar, that both *Martins* and *Bleaks* be most excellent meat.

And let me tell you, that I have known a *Hern*

that did constantly frequent one place, caught with a hook baited with a big Minnow or a small *Gudgion*. The line and hook must be strong, and tied to some loose staff so big as she cannot flie away with it, a line not exceeding two Yards.





*"Well met, gentlemen, this is lucky that we meet so
just together at the very door"*

CHAP. XVI.

Is of nothing ; or, that which is nothing worth.

MY purpose was to give you some directions concerning *Roach* and *Dace*, and some other inferiour Fish, which make the Angler excellent sport, for you know there is more pleasure in Hunting the *Hare* than in eating her : but I will forbear at this time to say any more, because you see yonder come our brother *Peter* and honest *Coridon* : but I will promise you, that as you and I fish and walk to morrow towards *London*, if I have now forgotten anything that I can then remember, I will not keep it from you.

Well met, Gentlemen, this is lucky that we meet so just together at this very door. Come Hostess, where are you ? is Supper ready ? Come, first give us drink, and be as quick as you can, for I believe we are all very hungry. Well brother *Peter* and

Coridon, to you both ; come drink, and then tell me *what luck of fish* : we two have caught but ten Trouts, of which my Scholar caught three ; look here's eight, and a brace we gave away : we have had a most pleasant day for fishing and talking, and are returned home both weary and hungry, and now meat and rest will be pleasant.

Pet. and *Coridon* and I have not had an unpleasant day, and yet I have caught but five Trouts : for indeed we went to a good honest Ale-house, and there we plaid at Shovel-board half the day ; all the time that it rained we were there, and as merry as they that fished, and I am glad we are now with a dry house over our heads, for hark how it rains and blows. Come Hostess, give us more Ale, and our supper with what haste you may ; and when we have sup'd let us have your Song, *Piscator*, and the Catch that your Scholar promised us, or else *Coridon* will be dogged.

Pisc. Nay, I will not be worse than my word, you shall not want my Song, and I hope I shall be perfect in it.

Venat. And I hope the like for my Catch, which I have ready too, and therefore lets go merrily to supper, and then have a gentle touch at singing and drinking : but the last with moderation.

Cor. Come, now for your Song, for we have fed heartily. Come Hostess, lay a few more sticks on the fire, and now sing when you will.

Pisc. Well then, heres to you *Coridon* ; and now for my Song.

THE COMPLEAT ANGLER

41

*Oh the gallant Fishers life,
It is the best of any,
Tis full of pleasure, void of strife,
And 'tis belov'd of many :*

*Other joys
are but toys,
only this
lawful is,
for our skill
breeds no ill,
but content and pleasure.*

*In a morning up we rise,
Ere Aurora's peeping,
Drink a cup to wash our eyes,
Leave the sluggard sleeping :*

*Then we go
to and fro,
with our knacks
at our backs,
to such streams
As the Thames,
if we have the leasure.*

*When we please to walk abroad
For our recreation,
In the fields is our abode,
Full of delectation.*

*Where in a brook
with a hook,
or a Lake,
fish we take,
there we sit,
for a bit,
till we fish entangle.*

*We have Gentles in a horn,
We have paste and worms too,
We can match both night and morn,
Suffer rain and storms too :*

*None do here
use to swear,
oaths do fray
fish away,
we sit still,
and watch our quill ;
Fishers must not wrangle.*

*If the Suns excessive heat
Make our bodies swelter,
To an Osier hedge we get
For a friendly shelter,
Where in a dike
Pearch or Pike.
Roach or Dace.
we do chase,
Bleak or Gudgeon
without grudging,
we are still contented.*

*Or we sometimes pass an hour
Under a green Willow,
That defends us from a shower,
Making earth our pillow,
Where we may
think and pray,
before death
stops our breath :
other joys
are but toys,
and to be lamented,*

Jo. Chalkhill.

Venat. Well sung, Master, this days fortune and pleasure, and this nights company and song, do all make me more and more in love with *Angling*. Gentlemen, my Master left me alone for an hour this day, and I verily believe he retired himself from talking with me, that he might be so perfect in this song ; was it not Master ?



Pisc. Yes indeed, for it is many years since I learn'd it, and having forgotten a part of it, I was forced to patch it up by the help of mine own Invention, who am not excellent at Poetrie, as my part of the song may testify : But of that I will say no more, lest you should think I mean by discommending it to beg your commendations of it. And therefore without replications lets hear your Catch, Scholar, which I hope will be a good one, for you are both Musical, and have a good fancie to boot.

Venat. Marry and that you shall, and as freely as I would have my honest Master tell me some more secrets of fish and Fishing as we walk and fish towards *London* to morrow. But Master, first let me tell you, that, that very hour which you were absent from me, I sate down under a *Willow-tree* by the water side, and considered what you had told me of the Owner of that pleasant Meadow in which you then left me ; that he had a plentiful estate, and not a heart to think so ; that he had at this time many Law-suits depending, and that they both damp'd his mirth, and took up so much of his time and thoughts, that he himself had not leisure to take the sweet content that I (who pretended no title to them,) took in his fields, for I could there sit quietly, and looking on the water, see some Fishes sport themselves in the silver streams, others, leaping at Flies of several shapes and colours ; looking on the Hills, I could behold them spotted with Woods and Groves ; looking down the Meadows, could see here a Boy gathering *Lillies* and *Lady-smocks*, and there a Girl cropping *Culverkeyes* and *Cow-slips*, all to make

Garlands suitable to this present Month of *May*: these and many other Field-flowers, so perfumed the Air, that I thought that very Meadow like that Field in *Sicily* (of which *Diodorus* speaks) where the perfumes arising from the place, make all Dogs that hunt in it, to fall off, and to lose their hottest sent. I say, as I thus sate joying in my own happy condition, and pitying this poor rich man, that own'd this and many other pleasant Groves and Meadows about me, I did thankfully remember what my Saviour said, that the *meek possess the Earth*; or rather, they enjoy what the other possess and enjoy not, for Anglers and meek quiet-spirited-men, are free from those high, those restless thoughts which corrode the sweets of life; and they, and they only can say as the Poet has happily exprest it.

*Hail blest estate of lowliness!
Happy enjoyments of such minds,
As rich in self-contentedness,
Can, like the reeds in roughest winds
By yielding make that blow but small
At which proud Oaks and Cedars fall.*

There came also into my mind at that time, certain Verses in praise of a mean estate, and an humble mind, they were written by *Phineas Fletcher*: an excellent Divine, and an excellent Angler, and the Author of excellent piscatory Eclogues, in which you shall see the picture of this good mans mind, and I wish mine to be like it.

*No empty hopes, no Courtly fears him fright,
No begging wants, his middle fortune bite,
But sweet content exiles, both misery and spite.*

*His certain life, that never can deceive him,
Is full of thousand sweets, and rich content ;
The smooth-leav'd beeches in the field receive him,
With coolest shade, till noon-tides heat be spent :
His life, is neither tost in boisterous Seas,
Or the vexatious world, or lost in slothful ease ;
Pleas'd & full blest he lives, when he his God can please.*

*His bed, more safe than soft, yields quiet sleeps,
While by his side his faithful Spouse hath place,
His little son, into his bosom creeps,
The lively picture of his fathers face.
His humble house, or poor state ne're torment him,
Less he could like, if less his God had lent him
And when he dies, green turfs do for a tomb content him.*

Gentlemen, these were a part of the thoughts that then possess me, and I there made a conversion of a piece of an old Catch, and added more to it, fitting them to be sung by us Anglers : come Master, you can sing well, you must sing a part of it as it is in this paper.

*Mans life, is but vain : for, 'tis subject to pain
And sorrow, and short as a bubble ;
'Tis a Hodg-poch of business, and mony, and care,
And care, and, mony and trouble.
But we'l take no care, when the weather proves fair :
Nor will we vex now tho it rain ;
We'l banish all sorrow, and sing till to morrow,
And Angle, and Angle again.*

THE COMPLEAT ANGLER

THE ANGLERS SONG.

CANTUS.

a. 2. Voc.

Set by Mr. Henry Lawes.

Man's life is but vain; for 'tis sub - ject to

pain, and sor - row, and short as a bub - ble; 'tis a



hodge podge of busi - ness and mone - y, and care, and

care, and mone-y and trou-ble. But we'll take no

care when the wea - ther proves fair, nor will we

vex now, though it rain; we'll ban-ish all sor-row

and sing'till to mor-row, and An-gle and an-gle a-gain.

THE COMPLEAT ANGLER

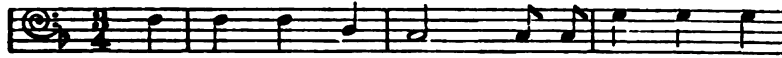
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THE ANGLERS SONG.

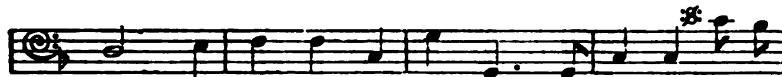
BASSUS.

Set by Mr. Henry Lawes.

a. 2. *Voc.*



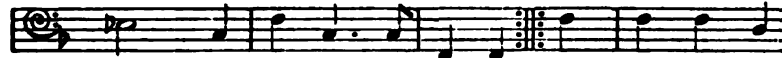
Man's life is but vain; for 'tis sub - ject to



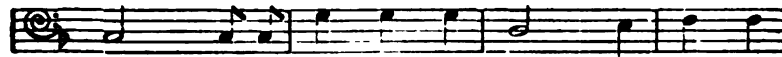
pain and sor - row, and short as a bub - ble; 'tis a



hodge podge of busi - ness and mon - ey, and care, and



care, and mon - ey and trou - ble. But we'll take no



care when the wea - ther proves fair, nor will we



vex now, though it rain; we'll ban - ish all sor - row



and sing 'till to mor - row, and An - gle and an - gle a - gain.

Pet. I marry Sir, this is Musick indeed, this has cheer'd my heart, and made me to remember six Verses in praise of Musick, which I will speak to you instantly.

*Musick, miraculous Rhetorick, that speak'st sense
Without a tongue, excelling eloquence ;
With what ease might thy errors be excus'd
Wert thou as truly lov'd as th' art abus'd ?
But though dull souls neglect, & some reprove thee,
I cannot hate thee, 'cause the Angels love thee.*

Ven. And the repetition of these last Verses of musick have call'd to my memory what Mr. *Ed. Waller* (a Lover of the Angle) says of Love and Musick.

*Whilst I listen to thy voice
(Choris) I feel my heart decay :
That powerful voice,
Calls my fleeting Soul away ;
Oh ! suppress that magick sound
Which destroys without a wound.*

*Peace Cloris, peace, or singing die,
That together you and I
To Heaven may go :
For all we know
Of what the blessed do above
Is, that they sing, and that they love.*

Pisc. Well remembred brother *Peter*, these Verses came seasonably, and we thank you heartily. Come, we will all joyn together, my Host and all, and sing my Scholars Catch over again, and then each man drink the tother cup and to bed, and thank God we have a dry house over our heads.

Pisc. Well now, good night to every body.

Pet. And so say I.

Ven. And so say I.

Cor. Good night to you all, and I thank you.

Pisc. Good morrow brother *Peter*, and the like to you honest *Coridon* : come, my Hostess says there is seven shillings to pay, let's each man drink a pot for his mornings draught, and lay down his two shillings, that so my Hostess may not have occasion to repent her self of being so diligent, and using us so kindly.

Pet. The motion is liked by every body, and so Hostess, here's your money ; we Anglers are all beholding to you, it will not be long e're I'll see you again. And now brother *Piscator* I wish you and my brother your Scholar a fair day, and good fortune. Come *Coridon*, this is our way,



CHAP. XVII.

*Of Roach and Dace, & how to fish for them.
And of Caddis.*

V*En.* Good Master, as we go now towards *London*, be still so courteous as to give me more instructions, for I have several boxes in my memory, in which I will keep them all very safe, there shall not one of them be lost.

Pisc. Well Scholar, that I will, and I will hide nothing from you that I can remember, and can think may help you forward towards a perfection in this Art; and because we have so much time, and I have said so little of *Roach* and *Dace*, I will give you some directions concerning them.

Some say the *Roach* is so called, from *Rutilus*, which they say, signifies red fins: He is a Fish of no great reputation for his dainty taste, and his Spawn is accounted much better than any other part of him.

*“See here a boy gathering lilies and lady-smocks, and
there a girl cropping cuckookeys and cowslips”*



And you may take notice, that as the *Carp* is accounted the *Water-Fox*, for his cunning ; so the *Roach* is accounted the *Water-sheep* for his simplicity or foolishness. It is noted that the *Roach* and *Dace* recover strength, and grow in season in a fortnight after Spawning, the *Barbel* and *Chub* in a month, the *Trout* in four months, and the *Salmon* in the like time, if he gets into the Sea, and after into fresh water.

Roaches be accounted much better in the River than in a Pond, though ponds usually breed the biggest. But there is a kind of bastard small *Roach* that breeds in ponds with a very forked tail, and of a very small size, which some say is bred by the *Bream* and right *Roach*, and some Ponds are stored with these beyond belief ; and knowing-men that know their difference call them *Ruds* ; they differ from the true *Roach* as much as a Herring from a Pilchard, and these bastard breed of *Roach* are now scattered in many Rivers, but I think not in *Thames*, which I believe affords the largest and fattest in this Nation, especially below *London-bridg* : the *Roach* is a leather-mouth'd Fish, and has a kind of saw-like teeth in his throat. And lastly let me tell you, the *Roach* makes an Angler excellent sport, especially the great *Roaches* about *London*, where I think there be the best *Roach-Anglers*, and I think the best *Trout-Anglers* be in *Derby-shire*, for the waters there are clear to an extremity.

Next, let me tell you, you shall fish for this *Roach* in Winter with Paste or Gentles, in *April* with worms or Caddis ; in the very hot months with little

white snails, or with flies under-water, for he seldom takes them at the top, though the Dace will. In many of the hot months, Roaches may also be caught thus: Take a *May-flie* or *Ant-flie*, sink him with a little lead to the bottom near to the Piles or Posts of a Bridg, or near to any posts of a *Weire*, I mean any deep place where Roaches lie quietly, and then pull your flie up very leisurely, and usually a Roach will follow your bait to the very top of the water and gaze on it there, and run at it and take it lest the flie should flie away from him.

I have seen this done at *Windsor* and *Henly-Bridg*, and great store of *Roach* taken; and sometimes a *Dace* or *Chub*; and in *August* you may fish for them with a Paste made only of the crumbs of Bread, which should be of pure fine Manchet; and that paste must be so tempered betwixt your hands till it be both soft and tough too; a very little water, and time and labour, and clean hands will make it a most excellent paste: But when you fish with it, you must have a small hook, a quick eye, and a nimble hand, or the bait is lost and the fish too; (if one may lose that which he never had) with this paste, you may, as I said, take both the Roach and the Dace or Dare, for they be much of a kind, in matter of feeding, cunning, goodness, and usually in size. And therefore take this general direction for some other baits which may concern you to take notice of. They will bite almost at any flie, but especially at *Antflies*; concerning which, take this direction, for it is very good.

Take the blackish *Ant-flie* out of the Mole-hill or

Ant-hill, in which place you shall find them in the month of *June*, or if that be too early in the year, then doubtless you may find them in *July*, *August*, and most of *September*, gather them alive with both their wings, and then put them into a Glass that will hold a quart or a pottle; but first put into the Glass a handful or more of the moist earth, out of which you gather them, and as much of the roots of the grass of the said hillock, and then put in the flies gently, that they lose not their wings, lay a clod of earth over it, and then so many as are put into the glass without bruising, will live there a month or more, and be always in a readiness for you to fish with; but if you would have them keep longer, then get any great earthen pot, or barrel of three or four gallons (which is better) then wash your barrel with water and honey; and having put into it a quantity of earth and grass roots, then put in your flies, and cover it, and they will live a quarter of a year; these in any stream and clear water, are a deadly bait for *Roach* or *Dace*, or for a *Chub*; and your rule is, to fish not less than a handful from the bottom.

I shall next tell you a winter bait for a *Roach*, a *Dace* or *Chub*, and it is choicely good. About *All-hallantide* (and so till Frost comes) when you see men ploughing up heath ground, or sandy ground, or green swards, then follow the plough, and you shall find a white worm as big as two Maggots, and it hath a red head, (you may observe in what ground most are, for there the Crows will be very watchful and follow the Plough very close) it is all soft, and full of whitish guts; a worm that is in *Norfolk*, and some

other Counties called a *Grub*, and is bred of the Spawn or Eggs of a Beetle, which she leaves in holes that she digs in the ground under Cow or Horse dung, and there rests all Winter, and in *March* or *April* comes to be first a red, and then a black Beetle: gather a thousand or two of these, and put them with a peck or two of their own earth into some tub or firkin, and cover and keep them so warm, that the frost or cold air, or winds kill them not; these you may keep all winter, and kill fish with them at any time: and if you put some of them into a little earth and honey a day before you use them, you will find them an excellent bait for *Bream*, *Carp*, or indeed for almost any fish.

And after this manner you may also keep Gentles all winter, which are a good bait then, and much the better for being lively and tough: or you may breed and keep Gentles thus: Take a piece of Beasts liver, and with a cross stick, hang it in some corner over a pot or barrel half full of dry clay, and as the Gentles grow big, they will fall into the barrel and scowre themselves, and be always ready for use whensoever you incline to fish; and these Gentles may be thus created till after *Michaelmas*. But if you desire to keep Gentles to fish with all the year, then get a dead Cat or a Kite and let it be fly-blown, and when the Gentles begin to be alive and to stir, then bury it and them in soft, moist earth, but as free from frost as you can, and these you may dig up at any time when you intend to use them, these will last till *March*, and about that time turn to be Flies.

But if you be nice to foul your Fingers, (which

good Anglers seldom are) then take this Bait: Get a handful of well made Malt, and put it into a dish of water, and then wash and rub it betwixt your hands till you make it clean, and as free from husks as you can; then put that water from it, and put a small quantity of fresh water to it, and set it in something that is fit for that purpose over the Fire, where it is not to boil apace, but leasurly and very softly, until it become somewhat soft, which you may try by feeling it betwixt your Finger and Thumb, and when it is soft, then put your water from it, and then take a sharp Knife, and turning the sprout end of the Corn upward, with the point of your Knife take the back part of the husk off from it, and yet leaving a kind of inward husk on the Corn, or else it is marr'd, and then cut off that sprouted end (I mean a little of it) that the white may appear, and so pull off the husk on the cloven side (as I directed you) and then cutting off a very little of the other end, that so your hook may enter; and if your hook be small and good, you will find this to be a very choice Bait either for Winter or Summer, you sometimes casting a little of it into the place where your float swims.

And to take the *Roach* and *Dace*, a good Bait is the young brood of Wasps or Bees, if you dip their heads in blood; especially good for *Bream*, if they be baked or hardned in their husks in an Oven, after the bread is taken out of it; or hardned on a Fire-shovel; and so also is the thick blood of *Sheep*, being half dried on a Trencher, that so you may cut it into such pieces as may best fit the size of your hook, and a little salt keeps it from growing black, and makes

it not the worse but better: This is taken to be a choice Bait if rightly ordered.

There be several Oils of a strong smell that I have been told of, and to be excellent to tempt Fish to bite, of which I could say much, but I remember I once carried a small Bottle from Sir *George Hastings* to Sir *Henry Wotton*, (they were both chymical men) as a great Present; it was sent, and receiv'd, and us'd with great confidence; and yet upon enquiry I found it did not answer the expectation of Sir *Henry*, which with the help of this and other circumstances, makes me have little belief in such things as many men talk of: not but that I think Fishes both smell and hear (as I have exprest in my former discourse) but there is a mysterious Knack, which (though it be much easier than the Philosophers Stone, yet) is not attainable by common capacities, or else lies locked up in the brain or breast of some chymical man, that like the *Rosi-crucians* will not yet reveal it. But let me nevertheless tell you, that *Camphire* put with moss into your worm-bag with your worms, makes them (if many Anglers be not very much mistaken) a tempting bait, and the Angler more fortunate. But I stepped by chance into this discourse of Oiles and Fishes smelling, and though there might be more said, both of it and of Baits for *Roach* and *Dace*, and other float Fish, yet I will forbear it at this time, and tell you in the next place how you are to prepare your Tackling: concerning which I will for sport sake give you an old Rhime out of an old Fish-book, which will prove a part and but a part of what you are to provide.

*My Rod and my Line, my Float and my Lead,
 My Hook & my Plummets, my whelstone and knife,
 My Basket, my Baits both living and dead,
 My Net and my Meat, for that is the chief:
 Then I must have Thred, & Hairs green and small,
 With mine Angling purse, and so you have all.*

But you must have all these Tackling, and twice so many more, with which if you mean *I have* to be a Fisher, you must store your self; *heard, that* and to that purpose I will go with you *the tackling* either to Mr. *Margrave* who dwells amongst *both been* the Book-sellers in St. *Pauls* Church-Yard, *prized at* or to M. *John Stubs* near to the *Swan* in *fifty pounds* *Golding-lane*; they be both honest men, and *in the In-* *ventory of* *an Angler.* will fit an *Angler* with what *Tackling* he lacks.

Venat. Then, good Master, let it be at — for he is nearest to my dwelling, and I pray let's meet there the ninth of *May* next, about two of the clock, and I'll want nothing that a Fisher should be furnished with.

Pisc. Well, and I'll not fail you God willing at the time and place appointed.

Venat. I thank you, good Master, and I will not fail you: and, good Master, tell me what Baits more you remember, for it will not now be long ere we shall be at *Tottenbam-high-Cross*, and when we come thither I will make you some requital of your pains, by repeating as choice a copy of Verses, as any we have heard since we met together; and that is a proud word for we have heard very good ones.

Pisc. Well, Scholar, and I shall be then right glad to hear them; and I will as we walk tell you whatsoever comes in my mind, that I think may be worth

your hearing. You may make another choice Bait thus, Take a handful or two of the best and biggest *Wheat* you can get, boil it in a little milk (like as *Frumity* is boiled) boil it so till it be soft, and then fry it very leasurely with Honey and a little beaten Saffron dissolved in milk, and you will find this a choice Bait, and good I think for any Fish, especially for *Roach*, *Dace*, *Chub*, or *Grayling* : I know not but that it may be as good for a *River-carp*, and especially if the ground be a little baited with it.

And you may also note, that the spawn of most Fish is a very tempting bait, being a little hardned on a warm Tile, and cut into fit peices. Nay, Mulberries and those Black-berries, which grow upon Briers, be good baits for *Chubs* or *Carps*, with these many have been taken in Ponds, and in some Rivers where such Trees have grown near the water and the fruit customarily dropt into it, and there be a hundred other baits more than can be well nam'd, which, by constant baiting the water will become a tempting bait for any Fish in it.

You are also to know, that there be divers kinds of *Caddis*, or *Case-worms*, that are to be found in this Nation in several distinct Counties, and in several little Brooks that relate to bigger Rivers ; as namely, one *Cadis* called a *Piper*, whose husk or case is a piece of reed about an inch long or longer, and as big about as the compass of a two pence, these worms being kept three or four days in a woollen bag with sand at the bottom of it, and the bag wet once a day, will in three or four days turn to be yellow, and these be a

choice bait for the *Chub* or *Chavender*, or indeed for any great Fish, for it is a large Bait.

There is also a lesser *Cadis-worm*, called a *Cockspur*, being in fashion like the spur of a *Cock*, sharp at one end, and the case or house in which this dwells is made of small husks, and gravel, and slime, most curiously made of these, even so as to be wondered at, but not to be made by man no more than a *King-fishers* nest can, which is made of little Fishes bones, and have such a Geometrical inter-weaving and connexion, as the like is not to be done by the art of man: This kind of *Cadis* is a choice bait for any float-Fish, it is much less than the *Piper-Cadis*, and to be so ordered, and these may be so preserved ten, fifteen, or twenty days, or it may be longer.

There is also another *Cadis*, called by some a *Straw-worm*, and by some a *Ruff-coat*, whose house or case is made of little pieces of bents, and rushes, and straws, and water-weeds, and I know not what, which are so knit together with condensed slime, that they stick about her husk or case, not unlike the bristles of a *Hedghog*; these three *Cadis's* are commonly taken in the beginning of Summer, and are good indeed to take any kind of fish with float or otherwise. I might tell you of many more, which as these do early, so those have their time also of turning to be flies later in Summer; but I might lose my self, and tire you by such a discourse, I shall therefore but remember you, that to know these, and their several kinds, and to what flies every particular *Cadis* turns, and then how to use them first as they be *Cadis*, and after as they be *flies*, is an art, and an

art that every one that professes to be an Angler has not leisure to search after, and if he had is not capable of learning.

I'll tell you, Scholar, several Countries have several kinds of *Caddis's*, that indeed differ as much as dogs do : That is to say, as much as a very *Cur* and a *Greyhound* do. These be usually bred in the very little rills or ditches that run into bigger Rivers, and I think a more proper bait for those very Rivers, than any other. I know not how or of what this *Cadis* receives life, or what coloured flie, it turns to ; but doubtless, they are the death of many *Trouts*, and this is one killing way.

Take one (or more if need be) of these large yellow *Cadis*, pull off his head, and with it pull out his black gut, put the body (as little bruised as is possible) on a very little hook, armed on with a Red hair (which will shew like the *Cadis-head*) and a very little thin lead, so put upon the shank of the hook that it may sink presently ; throw this bait thus ordered (which will look very yellow) into any great still hole where a Trout is, and he will presently venture his life for it, 'tis not to be doubted if you be not espyed ; and that the bait first touch the water, before the line ; and this will do best in the deepest stillest water.

Next let me tell you, I have been much pleased to walk quietly by a Brook with a little stick in my hand, with which I might easily take these, and consider the curiosity of their composure ; and if you shall ever like to do so, then note, that your stick must be a little Hasel or Willow cleft, or have



The Deanery, Winchester

a nick at one end of it, by which means you may with ease take many of them in that nick out of the water, before you have any occasion to use them. These, my honest Scholar, are some observations told to you as they now come suddenly into my memory, of which you may make some use: but for the practical part, it is that, that makes an Angler: it is diligence, and observation, and practice, and an ambition to be the best in the Art that must do it. I will tell you, Scholar, I once heard one say, *I envy not him that eats better meat than I do, nor him that is richer, or that wears better clothes than I do. I envy no body but him, and him only, that catches more fish than I do.* And such a man is like to prove an Angler, and this noble emulation I wish to you and all young Anglers.





*Of the Minnow or Penk, of the Loach, and of the
Bull-head, or Millers-thumb.*

PISC. There be also three or four other little fish that I had almost forgot, that are all without scales, and may for excellency of meat be compared to any fish of greatest value, and largest size. They be usually full of eggs or spawn all the months of Summer; for they breed often, as 'tis observed *mice* and many of the smaller four-footed Creatures of the earth do; and as those, so these come quickly to their full growth and perfection. And it is needful that they breed both often and numerously, for they be (besides other accidents of ruine) both a prey, and

baits for other fish. And first, I shall tell you of the *Minnow* or *Penk*.

The *Minnow* hath, when he is in perfect season, and not sick (which is only presently after spawning) a kind of dappled or waved colour, like to a *Panther*, on his sides, inclining to a greenish and skie-colour, his belly being milk-white, and his back almost black or blackish. He is a sharp biter at a small worm, and in hot weather makes excellent sport for young Anglers, or boys, or women that love that Recreation, and in the spring they make of them excellent *Minnow-Tansies*; for being washed well in salt, and their heads and tails cut off, and their guts taken out, and not washt after, they prove excellent for that use, that is, being *fryed with yolks of eggs, the flowers of Cowslips, and of Primroses, and a little Tansie*, thus us'd they make a dainty dish of meat.

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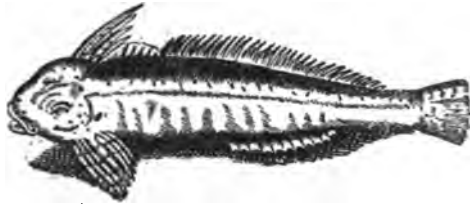
Loach
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and lives

there upon the gravel, and in the sharpest streams: He grows not to be above a finger-long, and no thicker than is suitable to that length. This *LOACH*, is not unlike the shape of the *Eel*: He has a beard or wattels like a *Barbel*. He

has two fins at his sides, four at his belly and one at his tail; he is dappled with many black or brown spots; his mouth is Barbel-like under his nose. This Fish is usually full of eggs or spawn, and is by *Gesner* and other learned Physicians commended for great nourishment, and to be very grateful both to the palate and stomach of sick persons, he is to be fished for with a very small worm at the bottom, for he very seldom or never rises above the Gravel, on which I told you he usually gets his Living.

The *Millers-thumb* or *Bull-head*, is a Fish of no pleasing shape. He is by *Gesner* compared to the *Sea-toad-fish*, for his similitude and shape. It has a head big and flat, much greater than sutable to his Body; a mouth very wide and usually gaping. He is without teeth, but his lips are very rough, much like to a Flie. He hath two Fins near to his gills, which be roundish or crested, two Fins also under the Belly, two on the back, one below the Vent, and the Fin of his tail is round. Nature hath painted the Body of this Fish with *whitish, blackish, brownish* spots. They be usually full of eggs or spawn all the Summer (I mean the Females) and those eggs swell their Vents almost into the form of a dug. They begin to spawn about *April*, and (as I told you) spawn several months in the Summer; and in the winter the Minnow, and Loach and Bull-head dwell in the mud as the Eel doth, or we know not where: no more than we know where the Cuckow and Swallow, and other half year birds (which first appear to us in *April*) spend their six cold winter

melancholy months. This *Bull-head* does usually dwell himself in holes, or amongst stones in clear water; and in very hot daies will lie a long time very still, and sun himself, and will be easie to be seen upon any flat stone, or any gravel, at which time, he will suffer an Angler to put a hook baited with a small worm very near unto his very mouth, and he never refuses to bite, nor indeed to be caught with the worst of Anglers. *Matthiolus* commends him much more for his taste and nourishment, than for his shape or beauty.



There is also a little Fish called a *Sticklebag*: a Fish without scales, but hath his body fenc'd with several prickles. I know not where he dwells in winter, nor what he is good for in summer, but only to make sport for boys and women-Anglers, and to feed other Fish that be Fish of prey, as Trouts in particular, who will bite at him as at a *Penk*, and better, if your hook be rightly baited with him, for he may be so baited, as his tail turning like the sail of a windmill will make him turn more quick than any *Penk* or *Minnow* can. For note, that the nimble turning of that or the *Minnow* is the perfection of *Minnow-Fishing*. To which end, if you put your hook into his mouth, and out at his

tail, and then having first tied him with white thred a little above his tail, and placed him after such a manner on your hook as he is like to turn, then sow up his mouth to your line, and he is like to turn quick, and tempt any *Trout*: but if he do not turn quick, then turn his tail a little more or less towards the inner part; or towards the side of the hook, or put the *Minnow* or *Sticklebag* a little more crooked or more strait on your hook, until it will turn both true and fast; and then doubt not but to tempt any great *Trout* that lies in a swift stream. And the *Loach* that I told you of will do the like: no bait is more tempting, provided the *Loach* be not too big.

And now *Scholar*, with the help of this fine morning, and your patient attention, I have said all that my present memory will afford me concerning most of the several Fish that are usually fisht for in fresh waters.

Venat. But Master, you have by your former civility made me hope that you will make good your promise, and say something of the several Rivers that be of most note in this Nation; and also of *Fish-ponds*, and the ordering of them, and do it I pray good Master, for I love any Discourse of Rivers, and Fish and fishing, the time spent in such discourse passes away very pleasantly.

CHAP. XIX.

Of several Rivers, and some Observations of Fish.

Pisc. Well Scholar, since the ways and weather do both favour us, and that we yet see not *Tottenham-Cross*, you shall see my willingness to satisfie your desire. And first, for the Rivers of this Nation, there be (as you may note out of Doctor *Heylins* Geography, and others) in number 325. but those of chiefest note he reckons and describes as followeth.

The chief is *Thamisis*, compounded of two Rivers, *Thame* and *Iris*; whereof the former rising somewhat beyond *Thame* in *Buckinghamshire*, and the later in *Cyrencester* in *Glocestershire* meet together about *Dorchester* in *Oxfordshire*, the issue of which happy conjunction is the *Thamisis* or *Thames*. Hence it flyeth betwixt *Berks*, *Buckingham-shire*, *Middlesex*, *Surry*,

Kent, and *Essex*, and so weddeth himself to the Kentish *Medway* in the very jaws of the Ocean ; this glorious River feeleth the violence and benefit of the Sea more than any River in *Europe*, ebbing and flowing twice a day, more than sixty miles : about whose banks are so many fair Towns, and Princely Palaces that a *German Poet* thus truly spake :

Tot Campos, &c.

*We saw so many Woods and Princely bowers,
Sweet Fields, brave Palaces, and stately Towers,
So many Gardens drest with curious care,
That Thames with royal Tyber may compare.*

2. The second River of note, is *Sabrina* or *Severn* : it hath its beginning in *Plinlimmon-Hill* in *Montgomery-shire*, and his end seven miles from *Bristol*, washing in the mean space the walls of *Shrewsbury*, *Worcester*, and *Glocester* and divers other places and palaces of note.

3. *Trent*, so called for thirty kind of Fishes that are found in it, or for that it receiveth thirty lesser Rivers, who having his fountain in *Staffordshire*, and gliding through the Countries of *Nottingham*, *Lincoln*, *Leicester*, and *York*, augmenteth the turbulent current of *Humber*, the most violent stream of all the Isle. This *Humber* is not, to say truth, a distinct River, having a spring head of his own, but it is rather the mouth or *Eustorium* of divers Rivers here confluent and meeting together ; namely, your *Dorwent*, and especially of *Ouse* and *Trent* ; and (as the *Danow*, having received into its *channel*, the River *Dravus*,

Savus, *Tibisnus*, and divers others) changeth his name into this of *Humberabus*, as the old Geographers call it.

4. *Medway*, a Kentish River, famous for harbouring the Royal Navy.

5. *Tweed*, the north-east bound of *England*, on whose northern banks is seated the strong and impregnable Town of *Barwick*.

6. *Tine*, famous for *Newcastle*, and her inexhaustible Coal-pits. These and the rest of principal note, are thus comprehended in one of Mr. *Draytons* Sonnets.

*The floods queen, Thames, for ships and swans is crown'd
And stately Severn for her shore is prais'd,
The Chrystal Trent for fords and fish renown'd,
And Avons fame to Albions cliffs is rais'd,
Carlegion Chester vaunts her holy Dee,
York many wonders of her Ouse can tell,
The Peak her Dove, whose banks so fertile be,
And Kent will say her Medway doth excell.
Cotswool commends her Isis to the Tame,
Our Northern borders boast of Tweeds fair flood,
Our Western parts extoll their Willies fame,
And the old Lea brags of the Danish blood.*

These Observations are out of learned Dr. *Heylin*, and my old deceased friend *Michael Drayton*; and because you say, you love such discourses as these of *rivers* and *fish* and *fishing*, I love you the better, and love the more to impart them to you: nevertheless, *Scholar*, if I should begin but to name the several sorts of strange Fish that are usually taken in many of those Rivers that run into the Sea, I might beget wonder in you, or unbelief, or both; and yet I will

venture to tell you a real truth concerning one lately dissected by Dr. *Wharton*, a man of great learning and experience, and of equal freedom to communicate it; one that loves me and my Art, one to whom I have been beholding for many of the choicest observations that I have imparted to you. This good man, that dares do any thing rather than tell an untruth, did (I say) tell me, he lately dissected one strange fish and he thus described it to me.

The Fish was almost a yard broad, and twice that length; his mouth wide enough to receive or take into it the head of a man, his stomach seven or eight inches broad: he is of a slow motion, and usually lyes or lurks close in the mud, and has a moveable string on his head about a span, or near unto a quarter of a yard long, by the moving of which (which is his natural bait) when he lyes close and unseen in the mud, he draws other smaller fish so close to him that he can suck them into his mouth, and so devours and digests them.

And, Scholar, do not wonder at this, for besides the credit of the Relator, you are to note, many of these, and Fishes which are of the like and more unusual shapes, are very often taken on the mouths of our Sea-Rivers, and on the Sea-shore; and this will be no wonder to any that have travelled *Egypt*, where 'tis known the famous River *Nilus* does not only breed Fishes that yet want names, but by the overflowing of that River and the help of the Suns heat on the fat slime which that River leaves on the Banks (when it falls back into its natural channel)

such strange fish and beasts are also bred, that no man can give a name to, as *Grotius* (in his *Sopham*) and others have observed.

But whither am I straid in this discourse? I will end it by telling you, that at the mouth of some of these Rivers of ours, Herrings are so plentiful, as namely, near to *Yarmouth* in *Norfolk*, and in the West-Country, Pilchers so very plentiful, as you will wonder to read what our learned *Cambden* relates of them in his *Britannia*, p. 178, 186.

Well, Scholar, I will stop here, and tell you what by reading and conference I have observed concerning Fish-ponds.

CHAP. XX.

Of fish-ponds, and how to order them.

DOctor *Lebault* the learned French man, in his large discourse of *Mason Rustique*, gives this direction for making of *Fish-ponds*, I shall refer you to him to read it at large, but I think I shall contract it, and yet make it as useful.

He adviseth, that when you have dreined the ground, and made the earth firm where the head of the Pond must be, that you must then in that place drive in two or three rows of Oak or Elme Piles, which should be scorcht in the fire, or half burnt before they be driven into the earth, (for being thus used it preserves them much longer from rotting) and having done so, lay Fagots or Bavins of smaller wood

The Lca, above Ware



betwixt them, and then earth betwixt and above them, and then having first very well rammed them and the earth, use another pile in like manner as the first were: and note that the second pile is to be of or about the height that you intend to make your Sluce or Flood-gate, or the vent that you intend shall convey the overflowings of your Pond in any flood that shall endanger the breaking of the Pond dam.

Then he advises that you plant Willows or Owlers about it, or both, and then cast in Bavins in some places not far from the side, and in the most sandy places, for Fish both to spawn upon, and to defend them and the young Fric from the many Fish, and also from Vermin that lie at watch to destroy them, especially the spawn of the *Carp* and *Tench*, when 'tis left to the mercy of ducks or Vermin.

He and *Dubravius* and all others advise, that you make choice of such a place for your Pond, that it may be refresht with a little rill, or with rain water running or falling into it; by which Fish are more inclined both to breed, and are also refresht and fed the better, and do prove to be of a much sweeter and more pleasant taste.

To which end it is observed; that such Pools as be large and have most gravel, and shallows where *fish* may sport themselves, do afford Fish of the purest taste. And note, that in all Pools it is best for fish to have some retiring place, as namely hollow banks, or shelves, or roots of trees to keep them from danger; and when they think fit from the extream heat of Summer; as also, from the extremity of cold in

Winter. And note, that if many trees be growing about your Pond, the leaves thereof falling into the water, make it nauseous to the Fish, and the Fish to be so to the eater of it.

'Tis noted that the *Tench* and *Eel* love mud, and the *Carp* loves gravelly ground, and in the hot months to feed on grass: You are to cleanse your Pond, if you intend either profit or pleasure, once every three or four Years, (especially some Ponds) and then let it lye dry six or twelve months, both to kill the water-weeds, as *Water-lillies*, *Candocks*, *Reate* and *Bullrushes* that breed there; and also that as these die for want of water, so grass may grow in the Ponds bottom, which *Carp*s will eat greedily in all the hot months if the Pond be clean. The letting your Pond dry and sowing Oats in the bottom is also good, for the fish feed the faster: and being sometime let dry, you may observe what kind of Fish either increases or thrives best in that water; for they differ much both in their breeding and feeding.

Lebault also advises, that if your Ponds be not very large and roomy, that you often feed your fish by throwing into them chippings of Bread, Curds, Grains, or the entrails of Chickens, or of any fowl or beast that you kill to feed your selves; for these afford Fish a great relief. He says that Frogs and Ducks do much harm, and devour both the Spawn and the young Frie of all Fish, especially of the *Carp*. And I have, besides experience, many testimonies of it, But *Lebault* allows Water-frogs to be good meat, especially in some Months, if they be fat: but you are to note, that he is a *French-man*, and we *English*



will hardly believe him, though we know frogs are usually eaten in his Country: however he advises to destroy them and King-fishers out of your ponds; and he advises; not to suffer much shooting at wild fowl, for that (he says) affrightens, and harms, and destroys the Fish.

Note, that Carps and Tench thrive and breed best when no other fish is put with them into the same Pond; for all other fish devour their spawn, or at least the greatest part of it. And note, that clods of grass thrown into any Pond feed any Carps in Summer: and that garden earth and parsley thrown into a Pond, recovers and refreshes the sick fish. And note, that when you store your pond, you are to put into it two or three Melters for one Spawner, if you put them into a breeding Pond: but if into a nurse-pond, or feeding pond, in which they will not breed, then no care is to be taken, whether there be most Male or Female Carps.

It is observed, that the best ponds to breed Carps are those that be stony or sandy, and are warm, and free from wind, and that are not deep, but have willow trees and grass on their sides, over which the water does sometimes flow: and note, that Carps do more usually breed in marle pits, or pits that have clean clay bottoms, or in new ponds, or ponds that lie dry a winter season, than in old ponds, that be full of mud and weeds.

Well *Scholar*, I have told you the substance of all that either *observation* or *discourse*, or a diligent *Survey* of *Dubravius* and *Lebault* hath told me, Not that they in their long discourses have not said more,

but the most of the rest are so common observations, as if a man should tell a good Arithmetician, that twice two, is four. I will therefore put an end to this discourse, and we will here sit down and rest us.



CHAP. XXI.

*Directions for making of a Line, and for the colouring
of both Rod and Line.*

P*Is.* Well, Scholar, I have held you too long about these *Cadis*, and smaller *fish*, and *rivers*, and *Fish-ponds*, and my spirits are almost spent, and so I doubt is your patience; but being we are now almost at *Tottenham*, where I first met you, and where we are to part, I will lose no time, but give you a little directions how to make and order your Lines, and to colour the hair of which you make your Lines, for that is very needful to be known of an Angler; and also how to paint your Rod; especially your top, for a right grown top is a choice Commodity, and should be preserved from the water soaking into it, which makes it in wet weather to be

heavy, and fish ill favouredly, and not true, and also it rots quickly for want of painting : and I think a good top is worth preserving, or I had not taken care to keep a top above twenty years.

But first for your line.

First, note, That you are to take care, that your hair be round and clear, and free from galls or scabs, or frets; for a well-chosen, even clear, round hair, of a kind of glass-colour, will prove as strong as three uneven, scabby hairs, that are ill chosen, and full of galls or unevenness. You shall seldom find a black hair but it is round, but many white are flat and uneven, therefore if you get a lock of right, round, clear, glass-colour hair make much of it.

And for making your *Line*, observe this rule, First, let your hair be clean washt 'ere you go about to twist it : and then chuse not only the clearest hair for it, but hairs that be of an equal bigness, for such do usually stretch all together, and break altogether, which hairs of an unequal bigness never do, but break singly, and so deceive the Angler that trusts to them.

When you have twisted your links, lay them in water for a quarter of an hour, at least, and then twist them over again before you tie them into a Line: for those that do not so, shall usually find their Line to have a hair or two shrink, and be shorter than the rest at the first fishing with it, which is so much of the strength of the Line lost for want of first watering it, and then re-twisting it; and this is most visible in a seven-hair line, one of those which hath always a black hair in the middle.



And for dying of your hairs do it thus :

Take a pint of strong Ale, half a pound of soot, and a little quantity of the juice of *Walnut*-tree leaves, and an equal quantity of Allom, put these together into a pot, pan, or pipkin, and boil them half an hour, and having so done, let it cool, and being cold, put your hair into it, and there let it lie; it will turn your hair to be a kind of water or glass colour, or greenish, and the longer you let it lie, the deeper coloured it will be; you might be taught to make many other colours, but it is to little purpose; for doubtless the water-colour, or glass-coloured hair is the most choice and most useful for an *Angler*; but let it not be too green.

But if you desire to colour hair greener; then do it thus: Take a quart of small Ale, half a pound of Allom, then put these into a pan or pipkin; and your hair into it with them, then put it upon a fire, and let it boil softly for half an hour, and then take out your hair, and let it dry, and having so done, then take a pottle of water, and put into it two handful of Mary-golds, and cover it with a tile (or what you think fit) and set it again on the Fire, where it is to boil again softly for half an hour, about which time the scum will turn yellow, then put into it half a pound of Copperas beaten small, and with it the hair that you intend to colour, then let the hair be boiled softly till half the liquor be wasted, and then let it cool three or four hours with your hair in it: and you are to observe, that the more Copperas you put into it, the greener it will be, but doubtless the pale green is best; But if you desire yellow hair, (which

is only good when the weeds rot) then put in the more *Mary-golds*, and abate most of the Copperas, or leave it quite out, and take a little Verdigrease instead of it.

This for colouring your hair. And as for painting your Rod, which must be in Oil, you must first make a size with glue and water, boiled together, untill the glue be dissolved, and the size of a Lie-colour; then strike your size upon the wood with a Bristle, or a Brush, or Pensil, whilst it is hot: that being quite dry, take white Lead, and a little red Lead, and a little cole-black, so much as altogether will make an ash-colour; grind these all together with Linseed Oil, let it be thick, and lay it thin upon the wood with a Brush or Pensil, this do for the ground of any colour to lie upon wood.

For a Green.

Take Pink and Verdigreece, and grind them together in Linseed Oil, as thin as you can well grind it, then lay it smoothly on with your Brush, and drive it thin; once doing for the most part will serve, if you lay it well; and if twice be sure your first colour be thoroughly dry, before you lay on a second.

Well Scholar; having now taught you to paint your Rod: and, we having still a mile to Tottenham High-Cross, I will, as we walk towards it, in the cool shade of this sweet Hony-suckle-Hedg, mention to you some of the thoughts and joys that have possest my Soul since we two met together. And, these thoughts shall be told you, that you also may joyn with me in thankfulness to the giver of

every good and perfect gift for our happiness. And, that our present happiness may appear to be the greater, and we the more thankful for it: I will beg you to consider with me, how many do, even at this very time, lie under the torment of the Stone, the Gout, and Toothache; and, this we are free from. And, every misery that I miss is a new mercy, and therefore let us be thankful. There have been since we met, others, that have met disasters of broken Limbs, some have been blasted, others Thunder-struck; and we have been freed from these, and all those many other miseries that threaten humane nature: let us therefore rejoice and be thankful. Nay, which is a far greater mercy, we are free from the unsupportable burthen of an accusing, tormenting Conscience: a misery that none can bear, and therefore let us praise him for his preventing grace; and say, every misery that I miss, is a new mercy: Nay, let me tell you there be many that have forty times our Estates, that would give the greatest part of it to be healthful and chearful like us; who with the expence of a little mony have eat, and drank, and laught, and Angled, and sung, and slept securely: and rose next day, and cast away care, and sung, and laught, and Angled again: which are blessings, rich men cannot purchase with all their money. Let me tell you Scholar: I have a rich Neighbour, that is always so busie, that he has no leasure to laugh; the whole business of his life, is to get money, and more money, that he may still get more and more money; he is still drudging on; and says, that Solomon says, the diligent hand maketh rich: and 'tis true indeed, but he considers not, that 'tis not in the power of riches to make a man happy: for, it was wisely said by a man of great observation, that there be as many

miseries beyond riches, as on this side them: *and yet God deliver us from pinching poverty; and grant, that having a competency, we may be content and thankful. Let not us repine, or so much as think the gifts of God unequally dealt, if we see another abound with riches, when as God knows, the cares that are the keys that keep those riches, hang often so heavily at the rich mans girdle, that they clog him with weary days and restless nights, even when others sleep quietly. We see but the outside of the rich mans happiness: few consider him to be like the Silk-worm, that when she seems to play, is at the very same time spinning her own bowels, and consuming her self. And this many rich men do; loading themselves with corroding cares, to keep what they have (probably) unconscionably got. Let us therefore be thankful for health and a competence; and above all, for a quiet Conscience.*

Let me tell you, Scholar, that Diogenes walked on a day with his friend to see a Country Fair: where he saw, Ribbins, and Looking-glasses, and Nut-crackers, and Fiddles, and Hobbyhorses, and many other gim-cracks; and having observ'd them, and, all the other finnimbruns that make a compleat Country Fair: He said to his friend, Lord! How many things are there in this world of which Diogenes hath no need? And truly, it is so, or might be so, with very many who vex, and toyl themselves, to get what they have no need of. Can any man charge God, that he hath not given him enough to make his life happy? no doubtless: for, nature is content with a little: and yet, you shall hardly meet with a man, that complains not of some want, though he indeed wants nothing but his will, it may be, nothing but his will of his poor Neighbour, for not worshipping, or not flattering him, and thus, when



we might be happy and quiet, we create trouble to our selves. I have heard of a man, that was angry with himself because he was no taller, and of a Woman, that broke her Looking-glass because it would not shew her face to be as young and handsom as her next Neighbours was. And, I knew another, to whom God had given health, and plenty, but, a Wife that nature had made peevish, and, her Husbands riches had made Purse-proud, and must because she was rich (and for no other vertue) sit in the highest Pew in the Church: which being denied her; she engag'd her Husband into a contention for it, and at last, into a Law-suit with a dogged Neighbour, who was as rich as he, and, had a Wife as peevish and Purse-proud as the other: and this Law suit, begot higher oppositions, and actionable words, and more vexations, and Law-suits: for you must remember that both were rich, and must therefore have their wills. Well, this wilful Purse-proud Law-suit lasted during the life of the first Husband: after which his wife vext, and chid, and chid and vext, till she also chid and vext herself into her grave, and so the wealth of these poor rich people was curst into a punishment, because they wanted meek and thankful hearts; for those only can make us happy. I knew a man that had health and riches, and several houses all beautiful and ready furnisht, and would often trouble himself and Family to be removing from one house to another; and being ask'd by a friend, why he remov'd so often from one house to another? replyed, it was to find content in some one of them: but, his friend knowing his temper, told him, if he would find content in any of his houses? he must leave himself behind him; for, content will never dwell but in a meek and quiet soul. And this may appear if we read and consider what our Saviour says

in St. Matthews Gospel : for he there says,——Blessed be the merciful for they shall obtain mercy.——Blessed be the pure in heart ; for they shall see God.——Blessed be the poor in Spirit ; for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. And——Blessed be the meek ; for they shall possess the earth.——not that the meek shall not also obtain mercy, and see God, and be comforted, and at last come to the Kingdom of Heaven ; but in the mean time he (and he only) possesses the earth as he goes toward that Kingdom of Heaven, by being humble and cheerful, and content with what his good God has allotted him : he has no turbulent, repining, vexatious thoughts that he deserves better : nor is vext when he sees others possess of more honour or more riches than his wise God has allotted for his share ; but he possesses what he has with a meek and contented quietness : such a quietness as makes his very dreams pleasing both to God and himself.

My honest Scholar, all this is told to incline you to thankfulness ; and to incline you the more, let me tell you, that though the Prophet David was guilty of Murder and Adultery, and many other of the most deadly sins ; yet he was said to be a man after Gods own heart, because he abounded more with thankfulness than any other that is mentioned in holy Scripture, as may appear in his book of Psalms ; where there is such a Commixture of his confessing of his sins and unworthiness, and such thankfulness for Gods pardon and mercies, as did make him to be accounted even by God himself, to be a man after his own heart, and let us in that, labour to be as like him as we can ; let not the blessings we receive daily from God, make us not to value, or not praise him because they be common ; let not us forget to praise him for the innocent mirth and pleasure,



we have met with since we met together, what would a blind man give to see the pleasant Rivers and meadows and flowers and fountains, that we have met with since we met together? I have been told, that if a man that was born blind could obtain to have his sight for but only one hour, during his whole life, and should at the first opening of his eyes, fix his sight upon the Sun when it was in his full glory, either at the rising or setting of it; he would be so transported, and amazed, and so admire the glory of it, that he would not willingly turn his eyes from that first ravishing object, to behold all the other various beauties this world could present to him. And this, and many other like blessings we enjoy daily; and for most of them, because they be so common, most men forget to pay their praises but let not us, because it is a Sacrifice so pleasing to him that made that Sun, and us, and still protects us, and gives us flowers and showers and stomachs and meat and content and leasure to go a fishing.

Well Scholar, I have almost tir'd my self, and I fear more than almost tir'd you: but I now see Tottenham High-Cross, and our short walk thither shall put a period to my too long discourse, in which, my meaning was, and is, to plant that in your mind, with which I labour to possess my own Soul: that is; a meek and thankful heart. And, to that end, I have shew'd you, that riches without them, do not make any man happy. But let me tell you, that riches with them remove many fears, and cares, and therefore my advice is, that you endeavour to be honestly rich; or, contentedly poor: but, be sure, that your riches be justly got, or you spoil all. For, it is well said by Caussin, he that loses his Conscience, has nothing left that is worth keeping. Therefore be sure you look to that. And, in

the next place, look to your health: and if you have it praise God, and value it next to a good Conscience; for, health is the second blessing that we Mortals are capable of: a blessing, that mony cannot buy, and therefore value it, and be thankful for it. As for money (which may be said to be the third blessing) neglect it not: but note, that there is no necessity of being rich: for I told you, there be as many miseries beyond riches as on this side them: and, if you have a competence, enjoy it with a meek, chearful, thankful heart. I will tell you Scholar, I have heard a grave Divine say, that God has two dwellings; one in Heaven; and, the other in a meek and thankful heart. Which Almighty God grant to me, and to my honest Scholar: and so, you are welcom to Tottenham High-Cross.

Venat. Well Master, I thank you for all your good directions, but, for none more than this last of thankfulness, which I hope I shall never forget. And pray let's now rest our selves in this sweet shady Arbour, which nature her self has woven with her own fine fingers; 'tis such a contexture of *Wood-bines, Sweetbrier, Jessamine, and Mirtle*; and so interwoven, as will secure us both from the Suns violent heat; and from the approaching shower, and being sate down I will requite a part of your courtesies with a bottle of *Sack, Milk, Oranges, and Sugar*; which all put together, make a drink like *Nectar*, indeed too good for any body but us *Anglers*: and so Master, here is a full glass to you of that liquor, and when you have pledged me, I will repeat the Verses which I promised you; it is a Copy printed amongst some of Sir *Henry Wottons*: and doubtless made either by him, or by a lover of Angling:

Come Master, now drink a glass to me, and then I will pledge you, and fall to my repetition ; it is a description of such *Country-Recreations* as I have enjoyed since I had the happiness to fall into your company.

*Quivering fears, heart-tearing cares,
Anxious sighs, untimely tears,
Flye, flye to Courts,
Flye to fond worldlings sports
Where strain'd Sardonical smiles are glosing still,
And grief is forc'd to laugh against her will.
Where mirth's but mummery,
And sorrows only real be.*

*Fly from our Country-pastimes, fly,
Sad troops of humane misery,
Come serene looks,
Clear as the chrystal Brooks.
Or the pure assur'd heaven that smiles to see
The rich attendance on our poverty ;
Peace and a secure mind,
Which all men seek, we only find.*

*Abused Mortals, did you know
Where joy, hearts-ease and comforts grow ?
You'd scorn proud Towers,
And seek them in these Bowers,
Where winds sometimes our woods perhaps may shake,
But blustering care could never tempest make,
Nor murmurs ere come nigh us,
Saving, of fountains that glide by us.*

*Here's no fantastick Mask nor Dance,
But of our Kids that frisk and prance ;
Nor wars are seen,
Unless upon the green
Two harmless Lambs are butting one the other,
Which done, both bleating run each to his Mother.
And wounds are never found,
Save what the plough-share gives the ground.*

*Here are no entrapping baits
To hasten too, too hasty fates,
Unless it be
The fond credulity
Of silly fish, which (worldling like) still look
Upon the bait, but never on the hook :
Nor envy, 'less among
The birds for price of their sweet song.*

*Go, let the diving Negro seek
For Gems hid in some forlorn creek :
We all pearls scorn,
Save what the dewy morn
Congeals upon each little spire of grass,
Which careless shepherds beat down as they pass :
And gold ne're here appears,
Save what the yellow Ceres bears.*

*Blest silent groves, oh may you be
For ever mirths best nursery !
May pure contents
For ever pitch their tents
Upon these downs, these meads, these rocks, these mountains,
And Peace still slumber by these purling fountains :
Which we may every year
Meet when we come a fishing here.*

Pisc. Trust me (Scholar) I thank you heartily for these Verses, they be choicely good, and doubtless made by a lover of Angling : Come, now, drink a glass to me, and I will requite you with another very good Copy : it is a Farewell to the vanities of the World, and some say written by Sir *Harry Wotton*, who I told you was an excellent Angler. But let them be writ by whom they will, he that writ them had a brave soul, and must needs be possest with happy thoughts at the time of their composure :

*Farewell ye gilded follies, pleasing troubles ;
 Farewell ye honour'd rags, ye glorious bubbles :
 Fame's but a hollow echo, Gold, pure clay ;
 Honour the darling but of one short day.
 Beauty (th' eyes idol) but a damask'd skin ;
 State but a golden prison, to live in
 And torture free-born minds : embroydred Trains
 Meerly but pageants for proud swelling veins :
 And Blood Ally'd to Greatness is alone
 Inherited, not purchas'd, nor our own.
 Fame, Honour, Beauty, State, Train, Blood and Birth
 Are but the fading Blossoms of the earth.*

*I would be great, but that the Sun doth still
 Level his rayes against the rising hill :
 I would be high, but see the proudest Oak
 Most subject to the rending Thunder-stroak :
 I would be rich, but see men (too unkind)
 Dig in the bowels of the richest mind :
 I would be wise, but that I often see
 The Fox suspected, whilst the Ass goes free :
 I would be fair, but see the fair and proud,
 (Like the bright Sun) oft setting in a cloud :
 I would be poor, but know the humble grass
 Still trampled on by each unworthy Ass :
 Rich hated : wise suspected : scorn'd if poor :
 Great fear'd : fair tempted : high still envi'd more :
 I have wish'd all ; but now I wisht for neither ;
 Great, high, rich, wise, nor fair ; poor Ile be rather.*

*Would the world now adopt me for her heir ?
 Would Beauties Queen entitle me the Fair ?
 Fame speak me Fortunes Minion ? could I vie
 Angels with India, with a speaking eye
 Command bare heads, bow'd knees, strike Justice dumb
 As well as blind and lame, or give a tongue
 To stones by Epitaphs : be call'd great Master
 In the loose Rhimes of every Poetaster ?
 Could I be more than any man that lives,
 Great, fair, rich, wise all in Superlatives :
 Yet I more freely would these gifts resign,
 Then ever fortune would have made them mine,
 And hold one minute of this holy leasure.
 Beyond the riches of this empty pleasure.*

*Welcome pure thoughts, welcome ye silent Groves,
 These guests, these courts my soul most dearly loves
 Now the wing'd people of the skie shall sing
 My chearful Anthems to the gladsom Spring :
 A Pray'r-Book now, shall be my looking-glass,
 In which I will adore sweet Vertue's face.
 Here dwell no hateful looks, no Palace cares,
 No broken Vows dwell here, nor pale-fac'd Fears :
 Then here I'll sit, and sigh my hot loves folly,
 And learn't affect an holy melancholy,
 And if Contentment be a stranger then,
 I'll ne're look for it, but in heaven agen.*

Venat. Well Master ! these Verses be worthy to keep a room in every mans memory. I thank you for them ; and I thank you for your many instructions, which (God willing) I will not forget : and as St. *Austin* in his Confessions (*book 4. chap. 3.*) commemorates the kindness of his friend *Verecundus*, for lending him and his companion a *Country-house*, because there they rested and enjoyed themselves free from the troubles of the world ; so, having had the like advantage, both by your conversation, and the Art you have taught me, I ought ever to do the like : for indeed, your company and discourse have been so useful and pleasant, that I may truly say, *I have only lived since I enjoyed them, and turned Angler, and not before.* Nevertheless, here I must part with you, here in this now sad place where I was so happy as first to meet you : But I shall long for the ninth of *May*, for then I hope again to enjoy your beloved company at the appointed time and place. And now I wish for some *somniferous potion*, that might force me to sleep away the intermitted time, which will pass away with me as tediously, as it

does with men in sorrow ; nevertheless I will make it as short as I can by my *hopes* and *wishes*. And my good Master, I will not forget the doctrine which you told me *Socrates* taught his Scholars, *That they should not think to be honoured so much for being Philosophers, as to honour Philosophy by their vertuous lives*. You advised me to the like concerning *Angling*, and I will endeavour to do so, and to live like those many *worthy men*, of which you made mention in the former part of your discourse. This is my firm resolution ; and as a pious man advised his friend, *That to beget Mortification he should frequent Churches ; and view Monuments, and Charnel-houses, and then and there consider, how many dead bones time had pil'd up at the gates of death*. So when I would beget content, and increased confidence in the *Power*, and *Wisdom*, and *Providence* of Almighty God, I will walk the *Meadows* by some gliding stream, and there contemplate the *Lillies* that take no care, and those very many other various little living *creatures*, that are not only created but fed (man knows not how) by the goodness of the God of *Nature*, and therefore trust in him. This is my purpose : and so, *Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord*. And let the blessing of *St. Peters* Master be with mine.

Pisc. And upon all that are lovers of *Vertue* ; and dare trust in his *providence*, and be *quiet*, and go a *Angling*.

Study to be quiet, 1 Thes. 4. 11.

FINIS.

A SHORT
DISCOURSE

By way of
POST-SCRIPT,

Touching the
LAWES
OF
ANGLING.

My good Friend,

I cannot but tender my particular thanks to you, for that you have been pleased by three Editions of your Complete Angler, freely to dispence your deat-bought Experiences to all the lovers of that Art, and have thereby so excellently vindicated the Legality thereof, as to divine approbation, that if I should go about to say more in that behalf, it indeed were to light a Candle to the Sun: But since all pleasures (though neber so innocent in themselves) lose that stamp, when they are either pursued with inordinate affections, or to the prejudice of another;

therefore as to the former, every man ought to endeavour, through a serious consideration of the vanity of worldly contentments, to moderate his affections thereunto, whereby they may be made of excellent use, as some poisons allayed are in physick: And as to the latter, we are to have recourse to the known Laws, ignorance whereof excuseth no man, and therefore by their directions so to square our actions, that we hurt no man, but keep close to that golden Rule, To do to all men, as we would our selves be done unto.

Now concerning the Art of Angling, we may conclude, Sir, that as you have proved it to be of great Antiquity, so I find it favoured by the Laws of this Kingdom; for where provision is made by our Statutes primo Elizab. cap. 17. against taking Fish by Nets that be not of such and such a size there set down, yet, those Law-makers had so much respect to Anglers, as to except them; and leaue them at liberty to catch as big as they could, and as little as they would catch. And yet though this Apostolical Recreation be simply in it self lawful, yet no man can go upon another mans ground to fish, without his license, but that he is a Trespasser; but if a man have license to enter into a Close or Ground for such a space of time, there, though he practise Angling all that time, he is not a Trespasser, because his fishing is no abuse of his license: but this is to be understood of running Streams, and not of Ponds or standing Pools; for in case of a Pond or standing Pool, the Owner

thereof hath a property in the fish, and they are so far said to be his, that he may have Trespass for the fish against any one that shall take them without his license, though it be upon a Common, or adjoyning to the Kings High-way, or adjoyning to another mans ground, who giveth license: But in case of a River, where one or more have libera piscaria, only it is otherwise, for there the fishes are said to be *feræ naturæ*, and the taking of them with an Angle is not Trespass for that no man is said to have a property in them till he have caught them: and then it is a Trespass for any to take them from him: but this is not to be understood of fishes confined to a mans own ground by gates or otherwise, so that they cannot pass away, but may be taken out or put in at pleasure, for in that case the party hath a property in them, as in the case of a standing Pool.

But where any one hath *separalis piscaria*, as in Child and Greenhills Case in Trin. Tr. 15. Car. 1.

15. Car. 1. in the Kings Bench, there it seemeth that the fish may be said to be his, because no man else may take them whilst they are within his several fishing: therefore what is meant by a several fishing is necessary to be considered: and though the difference between a Free-fishing, and a Several fishing be often treated of in the antient books of the Law, and some Opinions will have the difference to be great, and others small or nothing at all; yet the certaintest definition of a several fishing is, where one hath the Royalty, and oweth the ground

on each side of the water which agreeth with Sir
 Mich. 17. E. 4. 6. William Calthrops Case, where an
 & Action was brought by him against
 Pasce. 18. E. 4. 4. another for fishing in his several
 fishing, &c. to which the Defendant pleaded, That
 the place wherein the Trespass was supposed to be
 done, contained ten perches of Land in length,
 and twenty perches in breadth, which was his
 own free hold at the time when the Trespass was
 supposed to be done, and that he fished there as was
 lawful for him to do, and this was adjudged a
 good plea by the whole Court, and upon argu-
 ment in that very Case it was agreed, that no man
 could have a several fishing but in his own soil,
 and that free fishing may be in the soil of another
 man, which was all agreed unto by Littleton our
 famous English Lawyer. So that from all this
 may be drawn this short conclusion, That if the
 Angler take care that he offend not with his feet,
 there is no great danger of his hands.

But there are some covetous rigid persons,
 whose souls hold no sympathy with those of the
 innocent Anglers, having either got to be Lords
 of Royalties, or owners of Lands adjoyning to
 Rivers, and these do, by some apted clownish
 nature and education for the purpose, insult and
 domineer over the innocent Angler, beating him,
 breaking his Rod, or at least taking it from him,
 and sometimes imprisoning his person as if he
 were a Felon. Whereas a true-bred Gentleman
 scorns those spider-like attempts, and will rather
 refresh a civil stranger at his Table, than warn

him from coming on his ground upon so innocent an occasion. It would therefore be considered how far such furious drivers are warranted by the Law and what the Angler may (in case of such violence) do in defence of himself: If I come upon another mans ground without his license, or the license of the Law, I am a Trespasser, for which the owner may have an Action of Trespass against me, and if I continue there after warning, to depart by the owner, or his servant thereunto authorised, the owner, or his servant by his command, may put me off by force, but not beat me, but in case of resistance by me, for then I (by resisting) make the assault; but if he beat me, I not resisting, in that case, he makes the assault, and I may beat him in defence of my self, and to free my self from his violence: and in case I shall leaue my Rod behind in his ground, he may take it damage feasant, but he can neither take it from my person by force, nor break it, but he is a Trespasser to me: Which seems clear by the case

of Reynell and Champernoon, where Mich. 7. Car. 1. Reynell brought an Action of Trespass against Champernoon for taking and cutting his Nets, the Defendant justified for that he was seized in fee of a several fishing, and that the plaintiff with others endeavoured to row upon his water, and with the Nets to catch his fish, and that for the safe-guard of his fishing he took and cut the Nets and Dars; to which plea the plaintiff demurred; and there it was adjudged by the whole Court, that he could not by such colour cut the Nets and

Days ; and judgment was thereupon given for the Plaintiff.

Doubtless our Fore-fathers well considered, that man to man was a wolf, and therefore made good Laws to keep us from devouring one another, and amongst the rest a very good Statute was made in the three and fortieth year of Queen Elizabeth, whereby it is provided, that in personal Actions in the Courts at Westminster, (being not for Land or Battery) when it shall appear to the Judges, (and be so by them signified) that the debt or damages to be recovered amount not to the sum of forty shillings or above, the said Judges shall award to the Plaintiff no more costs than damages, but less at their discretion.

And now with my acknowledgment of the advantage I have had both by your friendship and your book ; I wish nothing may ever be that looks like an alteration in the first ; nor any thing in the last, unless, by reason of the useful pleasure of it, you had called it *The Arcadia of Angling* ; for it deserves that Title, and I would deserve the continuance of your friendship.

THE CONTENTS.

Chapter 1.

- A** *Conference betwixt an Angler, a Faulkner, and a Hunter, each commending his Recreation.* pag. 21.
- Chap. 2. *Observations of the Otter and Chub.* p. 62.
- Chap. 3. *How to fish for, and to dress the Chavender or Chub.* 72.
- Chap. 4. *Observations of the nature and breeding of the Trout, and how to fish for him. And the Milk-maids song.* p. 79.
- Chap. 5. *More directions how to fish for, and how to make the Trout an artificial minnow and flye: and some merriment.* p. 93.
- Chap. 6. *Observations of the Umber or Grayling, and directions how to fish for them.* p. 135.
- Chap. 7. *Observations of the Salmon, with directions how to fish for him.* p. 138.
- Chap. 8. *Observations of the Luce or Pike, with directions how to fish for him.* p. 146.

- Chap. 9. *Observations of the Carp, with directions how to fish for him.* p. 160.
- Chap. 10. *Observations of the Bream, and directions how to fish for him.* Vol. II. 3
- Chap. 11. *Observations of the Tench, and advice how to angle for him.* p. 11.
- Chap. 12. *Observations of the Pearch, and directions how to fish for him.* 14.
- Chap. 13. *Observations of the Eel, and other fish that want scales, and how to fish for them.* p. 20.
- Chap. 14. *Observations of the Barbel, and directions how to fish for him.* p. 29.
- Chap. 15. *Observations of the Gudgion, the Ruff, and the Bleak, and how to fish for them.* p. 35.
- Chap. 16. *Is of nothing.* p. 39.
- Chap. 17. *Of Roach and Dace, and how to fish for them. And of Caddis.* p. 50.
- Chap. 18. *Of the Minnow or Penk, of the Loach, and of the Bull-head or Millers-thumb.* p. 62.
- Chap. 19. *Of several Rivers, and some observations of fish.* p. 67.
- Chap. 20. *Of Fish-ponds, and how to order them.* p. 72.
- Chap. 21. *Directions for making of a Line, and for the colouring of both Rod and Line.* p. 77.

F I N I S.

April 5.
1676.

Licensed,
Roger L'Estrange.



The Chapel, Haddon Hall

THE
COMPLEAT ANGLER.

Being Instructions how to angle for a
TROUT or GRAYLING in a clear
Stream.

PART. II.



*Qui mihi non credit, faciat licet ipse periculum:
Et fuerit scriptis æquior ille meis.*

LONDON,
Printed for Richard Marriott, and Henry Brome
in St. Paul's Church-yard. MDCLXXVI.

TO
My most Worthy
FATHER and FRIEND,
Mr. IZAAK WALTON
The Elder.

SIR,

B*eing you were pleased some years past, to grant me your free leave to do what I have here attempted; and observing, you never retract any promise when made in favour even of your meanest friends; I accordingly expect to see these following particular Directions for the taking of a Trout, to wait upon your better and more general Rules for all sorts of Angling: And, though mine be neither so perfect, so well digested, nor indeed so handsomely coucht as they might have been, in so long a time as since your leave was granted; yet, I dare affirm them to be generally true: And they had appeared too in something a neater dress, but that I was surpriz'd with the suddain news of a suddain new Edition of your Compleat Angler; so that, having but a little more than ten days time to turn me in, and rub up my memory (for in truth I have not in all this*

long time, though I have often thought on't, and almost as often resolv'd to go presently about it) I was forc't upon the instant to scribble what I here present you: which I have also endeavour'd to accommodate to your own Method. And, if mine be clear enough for the honest Brothers of the Angle readily to understand; (which is the only thing I aim at) then I have my end; and shall need to make no further Apology; a writing of this kind, not requiring (if I were Master of any such thing) any Eloquence to set it off, or recommend it; so that if you, in your better Judgment, or kindness rather, can allow it passable for a thing of this nature: You will then do me honour if the Cypher fixt and carv'd in the front of my little fishing-house may be here explained: And, to permit me to attend you in publick, who in private, have ever been, am, and ever resolve to be

Sir,

Your most affectionate

Son and Servant

*Berisford 10th.
of March 167 $\frac{5}{8}$.*

Charles Cotton.

THE
COMPLEAT ANGLER;
OR,
The Contemplative Man's
Recreation.
PART. II.



The Fishing
House
Barreford Dale
Piscatoribus
Sacrum
1674



CHAP. I.

Piscator Junior & Viator.

PISCAT. You are happily overtaken Sir; may a man be so bold as to enquire how far you travel this way?

Viator. Yes sure Sir very freely; though it be a question I cannot very well resolve you; as not knowing my self how far it is to *Ashborn*, where I intend to night to take up my Inn.

Piscat. Why then Sir, seeing I perceive you to be a Stranger in these parts; I shall take upon me to inform you, that from the Town you last came through, call'd *Brelsford*, it is five miles, and you are not yet above half a mile on this side.

Viat. So much! I was told it was but ten miles

from *Derby*, and methinks I have rode almost so far already.

Piscat. O Sir, find no fault with large measure of good Land, which *Derby-shire* abounds in, as much as most Counties of *England*.

Viat. It may be so, and good Land I confess affords a pleasant prospect: but by your good leave Sir, large measure of foul way is not altogether so acceptable.

Piscat. True Sir, but the foul way serves to justify the fertility of the soyl; according to the Proverb: *There is good Land, where there is foul way*; and is of good use to inform you of the Riches of the Country you are come into, and of its continual Travel, and Traffick to the Country Town you came from; which is also very observable by the fulness of its Road, and the loaden Horses you meet every where upon the way.

Viat. well Sir, I will be content to think as well of your Country, as you would desire, and I shall have a great deal of reason both to think, and to speak very well of you, If I may obtain the happiness of your company to the forementioned place, provided your affairs lead you that way, and that they will permit you to slack your pace out of complacency to a Traveller utterly a Stranger in these parts, and who am still to wander further out of my own knowledg.

Piscat. Sir, you invite me to my own advantage, and I am ready to attend you: my way lying through that Town; but my business, that is, my home, some miles beyond it: however I shall have time enough

to lodg you in your Quarters, and afterwards to perform my own Journey. In the mean time may I be so bold as to enquire the end of your Journey.

Viat. 'Tis into *Lancashire* Sir, and about some business of concern to a near Relation of mine : for I assure you, I do not use to take so long Journeys, as from *Essex* upon the single account of pleasure.

Piscat. From thence Sir ! I do not then wonder you should appear dissatisfied with the length of the Miles, and the foulness of the way : though I am sorry you should begin to quarrel with them so soon ; for, believe me Sir, you will find the Miles much longer, and the way much worse before you come to your Journies end.

Viat. Why truly Sir for that, I am prepar'd to expect the worst ; but methinks the way is mended since I had the good fortune to fall into your good company.

Piscat. You are not oblig'd to my company for that : but because you are already past the worst, and the greatest part of your way to your Lodging.

Viat. I am very glad to hear it, both for the ease of my self, and my Horse ; but especially because I may then expect a freer enjoyment of your conversation ; though the shortness of the way will, I fear, make me lose it the sooner.

Piscat. That Sir is not worth your care ; and I am sure you deserve much better, for being content with so ill company : but we have already talkt away two Miles of your Journey ; for from the Brook before us, that runs at the foot of this Sandy Hill, you have but three Miles to *Ashborn*.

Viat. I meet every where in this Country with these little Brooks, and they look as if they were full of Fish; have they not Trouts in them?

Piscat. That is a question, which is to be excus'd in a Stranger as you are; otherwise, give me leave to tell you, it would seem a kind of affront to our Country, to make a doubt of what we pretend to be famous for, next, if not before, our Malt, Wool, Lead, and Cole; for you are to understand, that we think we have as many fine Rivers, Rivulets, and Brooks, as any Country whatever, and they are all full of Trouts, and some of them the best (it is said) by many degrees in *England*.

Viat. I was first Sir in love with you, and now shall be so enamour'd of your Country by this account you give me of it, as to wish my self a *Derby-shire* Man, or at least that I might live in it: for you must know I am a pretender to the Angle, and doubtless a Trout affords the most pleasure to the Angler, of any sort of Fish whatever; and the best Trouts, must needs make the best sport: But this Brook, and some others I have met with upon this way, are too full of Wood for that recreation.

Piscat. This Sir! why this, and several others like it, which you have past, and some that you are like to pass, have scarce any name amongst us: but we can shew you as fine Rivers, and as clear from wood, or any other encumbrance to hinder an Angler, as any you ever saw; and for clear, beautiful streams, *Hant-shire* it self, by Mr. *Izaak Walton's* good leave, can shew none such; nor I think any Country in *Europe*.

Viat. You go far Sir in the praise of your Country

Rivers, and I perceive have read Mr *Walton's Compleat Angler* by your naming of *Hantsshire*, and I pray what is your opinion of that Book?

Piscat. My Opinion of Mr. *Walton's* Book is the same with every Man's, that understands any thing of the Art of Angling, that it is an excellent good one, and that the forementioned Gentleman understands as much of Fish, and Fishing as any Man living: but I must tell you further, that I have the happiness to know his person, and to be intimately acquainted with him, and in him to know the worthiest Man, and to enjoy the best, and the truest Friend any Man ever had: nay, I shall yet acquaint you further, that he gives me leave to call him Father, and I hope is not yet asham'd to own me for his adopted Son.

Viat. In earnest Sir I am ravisht to meet with a friend of Mr. *Izaak Walton's*, and one that does him so much right in so good and true a Character; for I must boast to you, that I have the good fortune to know him too, and came acquainted with him much after the same manner I do with you; that he was my Master who first taught me to love Angling, and then to become an Angler; and to be plain with you, I am the very Man decipher'd in his Book under the name of *Venator*, for I was wholly addicted to the Chace; till he taught me as good, a more quiet, innocent, and less dangerous diversion.

Piscat. Sir, I think my self happy in your acquaintance, and before we part shall entreat leave to embrace you; you have said enough to recommend you to my best opinion; for my Father *Walton* will be seen twice in no Man's company he does not like,

and likes none but such as he believes to be very honest men, which is one of the best Arguments, or at least of the best Testimonies I have, that I either am, or that he thinks me one of those, seeing I have not yet found him weary of me.

Viat. You speak like a true Friend, and in doing so render your self worthy of his friendship. May I be so bold as to ask your name ?

Piscat. Yes surely Sir, and if you please a much nicer question, my name is —— and I intend to stay long enough in your company, if I find you do not dislike mine, to ask yours too. In the mean time, because we are now almost at *Ashborn*, I shall freely, and bluntly tell you, that I am a Brother of the Angle too, and peradventure can give you some instructions how to Angle for a Trout in a clear River, that my Father *Walton* himself will not disapprove, though he did either purposely omit, or did not remember them, when you, and he sate discoursing under the *Sycamore* Tree. And being you have already told me whether your Journey is intended, and that I am better acquainted with the Country than you are ; I will heartily, and earnestly entreat, you will not think of staying at this Town : but go on with me six Miles further to my House, where you shall be extreamly welcom ; it is directly in your way, we have day enough to perform our Journey, & as you like your entertainment, you may there repose your self a day or two ; or as many more as your occasions will permit, to recompence the trouble of so much a longer Journey.

Viat. Sir, you surprise me with so friendly an in-

vitiation upon so short acquaintance : but how advantageous soever it would be to me, and that my hast perhaps is not so great, but it might dispense with such a divertisement as I promise my self in your Company ; yet I cannot in modesty accept your offer, & must therefore beg your pardon : I could otherwise, I confess be glad to wait upon you, if upon no other account but to talk of Mr. *I. Walton*, and to receive those instructions you say you are able to give me for the deceiving a Trout ; in which art I will not deny, but that I have an ambition to be one of the greatest deceivers ; though I cannot forbear freely to tell you, that I think it hard to say much more, than has been read to me upon that subject.

Piscat. well Sir, I grant that too ; but you must know that the variety of Rivers, require different ways of Angling : however you shall have the best Rules I am able to give, and I will tell you nothing I have not made my self as certain of, as any Man can be in thirty years experience (for so long I have been a dabler in that art) and that if you please to stay a few days, you shall not in a very great measure see made good to you. But of that hereafter, and now, Sir, if I am not mistaken I have half overcome you ; and that I may wholly conquer that modesty of yours, I will take upon me to be so familiar as to say, you must accept my invitation, which that you may the more easily be perswaded to do, I will tell you that my House stands upon the margin of one of the finest Rivers for Trouts, and grayling in *England* ; that I have lately built a little Fishing House upon it,

dedicated to Anglers, over the door of which you will see the two first Letters of my father *Wal-*
** as in the* *ton's* name and mine twisted in *Cypher* * ;
Title page. that you shall lye in the same Bed he has sometimes been contented with, and have such Country entertainment, as my Friends sometimes accept, and be as welcome too, as the best Friend of them all.

Viat. No doubt Sir, but my Master *Walton* found good reason to be satisfied with his entertainment in your House ; for you who are so friendly to a meer Stranger who deserves so little, must needs be exceedingly kind and free to him who deserves so much.

Piscat. Believe me, no ! and such as are intimately acquainted with that Gentleman, know him to be a Man, who will not endure to be treated like a Stranger. So that his acceptation of my poor entertainments, has ever been a pure effect of his own humility, and good nature, and nothing else. But Sir, we are now going down the Spittle Hill into the Town, and therefore let me importune you suddainly to resolve, and most earnestly not to deny me.

Viat. In truth Sir, I am so overcome by your Bounty, that I find I cannot, but must render my self wholly to be dispos'd by you.

Piscat. Why that's heartily, and kindly spoken, and I as heartily thank you ; and being you have abandon'd your self to my conduct, we will only call and drink a glass on Horseback at the *Talbot*, and away.

Viat. I attend you, but what pretty River is this, that runs under this Stone-Bridg ? has it a name ?

Piscat. Yes, 'Tis called *Henmore*, and has in it both Trout, and Grayling ; but you will meet with one or two better anon. And so soon as we are past through the Town, I will endeavour by such discourse as best likes you to pass away the time, till you come to your ill Quarters.

Viat. we can talk of nothing with which I shall be more delighted than of Rivers and Angling.

Piscat. Let those be the Subjects then, but we are now come to the *Talbot*, what will you drink Sir, Ale, or Wine.

Viat. Nay, I am for the Country liquor, *Derby-shire* Ale, if you please ; for a Man should not methinks come from *London* to drink Wine in the Peak.

Piscat. You are in the right ; and yet let me tell you, you may drink worse *French-wine* in many Taverns in *London*, than they have sometimes at this House. What hoe ! bring us a Flaggon of your best Ale, and now Sir my service to you, a good health to the honest Gentleman you know of, and you are welcome into the Peak.

Viat. I thank you Sir, and present you my service again, and to all the honest Brothers of the Angle.

Piscat. I'll pledg you Sir, so, there's for your Ale, and farewell. Come Sir, let us be going ; for the sun grows low, and I would have you look about you as you ride ; for you will see an odd Country, and sights, that will seem strange to you.



CHAP. II.

PISCAT. So Sir, now we are got to the top of the Hill out of Town, look about you, and tell me how you like the Country.

Viat. Bless me ! what Mountains are here ! are we not in *Wales* ?

Piscat. No, but in almost as Mountainous a Country, and yet these Hills though high, bleak, and craggy, breed and feed good Beef, and Mutton above ground, and afford good store of Lead within.

Viat. They had need of all those commodities to make amends for the ill Land-schape : But I hope our way does not lye over any of these ; for I dread a *precipice*.

Piscat. Believe me but it does, and down one especially, that will appear a little terrible to a Stranger : though the way is passable enough, and so

passable, that we who are Natives of these Mountains, and acquainted with them, disdain to alight.

Viat. I hope though that a Forraigner is privileged to use his own discretion, and that I may have the liberty to entrust my neck to the fidelity of my own feet, rather than to those of my Horse; for I have no more at home.

Piscat. 'Twere hard else. But in the mean time I think 'twere best while this way is pretty even, to mend our pace, that we may be past that Hill I speak of, to the end your apprehension may not be doubled for want of light to discern the easiness of the descent.

Viat. I am willing to put forward as fast as my Beast will give me leave; though I fear nothing in your Company. But what pretty River is this we are going into?

Piscat. Why this Sir is called *Bently* Brook, and is full of very good Trout, and Grayling; but so encumbered with wood in many places, as is troublesom to an Angler.

Viat. Here are the prettiest Rivers, and the most of them in this Country that ever I saw; do you know how many you have in the Country?

Piscat. I know them all, and they were not hard to reckon, were it worth the trouble; but the most considerable of them I will presently name you. And to begin where we now are (for you must know we are now upon the very skirts of *Derby-shire*) we have first the River *Dove*, that we shall come to by and by, which divides the two Counties of *Derby*, and *Stafford* for many Miles together, and is so call'd from the

swiftness of its current, and that swiftness occasion'd by the declivity of its course, and by being so straitned in that course betwixt the Rocks; by which, and those very high ones, it is hereabout for four, or five Miles confin'd into a very narrow stream. A River that from a contemptible Fountain (which I can cover with my Hat) by the confluence of other Rivers, Rivulets, Brooks, and Rills, is swell'd, (before it fall into *Trent* a little below *Egginton*, (where it loses the name,) to such a breadth, and depth, as to be in most places navigable, were not the passage frequently interrupted with Fords, and Wires, and has as fertile Bancks, as any River in *England*, none excepted. And this River from its head for a Mile or two is a black water (as all the rest of the *Derby-shire* Rivers of note, originally are, for they all spring from the Mosses) but is in a few Miles travel so clarified by the addition of several clear, and very great springs (bigger than it self) which gush out of the Lime-stone Rocks, that before it comes to my House, which is but six, or seven Miles from its source, you will find it one of the purest Chrystalline streams you have seen.

Viat. does *Trent* spring in these parts?

Piscat. Yes in these parts; not in this County, but somewhere towards the upper end of *Stafford-shire*, I think not far from a place call'd *Trentham*, and thence runs down not far from *Stafford* to *Wolsly* Bridg, and washing the skirts and purlews of the Forrest of *Needwood* runs down to *Burton* in the same County; thence it comes into this where we now are, and running by *Swarkston*, and *Dunnington*, receives *Derwent* at *Wildon*, and so to *Nottingham*,

thence to *Newark*, and by *Gainsborough*, to *Kingston* upon *Hull*, where it takes the name of *Humber*, and thence falls into the Sea : but that the Map will best inform you.

Viat. Know you whence this River *Trent* derives its name?

Piscat. No indeed, and yet I have heard it often discourst upon, when some have given its denomination from the forenamed *Trentham*; though that seems rather a derivative from it; others have said 'tis so call'd from thirty Rivers that fall into it, and there lose their names, which cannot be neither, because it carries that name from its very Fountain, before any other Rivers fall into it; others derive it from thirty several sorts of Fish that breed there, and that is the most likely derivation : But be it how it will, it is doubtless one of the finest Rivers in the World, and the most abounding with excellent Salmon, and all sorts of delicate Fish.

Viat. Pardon me Sir for tempting you into this digression, and then proceed to your other Rivers; for I am mightly delighted with this discourse.

Piscat. It was no interruption, but a very seasonable question; for *Trent* is not only one of our *Derbyshire* Rivers, but the chief of them, and into which all the rest pay the Tribute of their names; which I had perhaps forgot to insist upon, being got to the other end of the County, had you not awoke my memory. But I will now proceed, and the next River of note (for I will take them as they lye Eastward from us) is the River *Wye*; I say of note, for we have two lesser betwixt us and it, namely *Lathkin*, and *Bradford*, of

which *Lathkin* is by many degrees the purest, and most transparent stream, that I ever yet saw either at home or abroad, and breeds 'tis said, the reddest, and the best Trouts in *England*; but neither of these are to be reputed Rivers, being no better than great springs. The River *Wye* then has its source near unto *Buxtons*, a Town some ten Miles from hence, famous for a warm Bath, and which you are to ride through in your way to *Manchester*, a black water too at the Fountain; but by the same reason with *Dove*, becomes very soon a most delicate clear River, and breeds admirable Trout, and Grayling, reputed by those, who, by living upon its Banks are partial to it, the best of any, and this, running down by *Ashford*, *Bakewell*, and *Haddon*; at a Town a little lower call'd *Rowsly* falls into *Derwent*, and there loses its name. The next in order is *Derwent* a black water too, and that not only from its Fountain, but quite through its progress, not having these Chrystal springs to wash and cleanse it, which the two forementioned have; but abounds with Trout and Grayling (such as they are) towards its source, and with *Salmon* below; and this River from the upper and utmost part of this County, where it springs, taking its course by *Chatsworth*, *Darby*, *Matlock*, *Derby*, *Burrow-Ash*, and *Awberson*, falls into *Trent* at a place call'd *Wildon*, and there loses its name. The East side of this County of *Derby* is bounded by little inconsiderable Rivers, as *Awber*, *Eroways*, and the like, scarce worth naming, but Trouty too, and further we are not to enquire. But Sir I have carried you, as a Man may say by water, till we are now come to the descent of the

formidable Hill I told you of, at the foot of which runs the River *Dove*, which I cannot but love above all the rest, and therefore prepare your self to be a little frightened.

Viat. Sir, I see you would fortifie me, that I should not shame my self: but I dare follow where you please to lead me, and I see no danger yet; for the descent methinks is thus far green, even, and easy.

Pisc. You will like it worse presently when you come to the brow of the Hill, and now we are there, what think you?

Viat. What do I think? why I think it the strangest place that ever sure Men, and Horses went down, and that (if there be any safety at all) the safest way is to alight.

Pisc. I think so too for you, who are mounted upon a Beast not acquainted with these slippery stones; and though I frequently ride down, I will alight too to bear you company, and to lead you the way, and if you please my Man shall lead your Horse.

Viat. Marry Sir, and thank you too, for I am afraid I shall have enough to do to look to my self; and with my Horse in my hand should be in a double fear, both of breaking my neck, and my Horse's falling on me, for it is as steep as a penthouse.

Pisc. To look down from hence it appears so, I confess, but the path winds and turns, and will not be found so troublesom.

Viat. Would I were well down though! Hoist thee! there's one fair scape! these stones are so slip-

pery I cannot stand! yet again! I think I were best lay my heeles in my neck, and tumble down.

Pisc. If you think your heeles will defend your neck, that is the way to be soon at the bottom; but give me your hand at this broad stone, and then the worst is past.

Viat. I thank you Sir, I am now past it, I can go my self. What's here the sign of a Bridg? Do you use to Travel with wheel-barrows in this Country?

Pisc. Not that I ever saw Sir, why do you ask that question?

Viat. Because this Bridg certainly was made for nothing else; why a mouse can hardly go over it: 'Tis not two fingers broad.

Pisc. You are pleasant, and I am glad to see you so: but I have rid over the Bridg many a dark night.

Viat. Why according to the *French* proverb, and 'tis a good one among a great many of worse sense and sound that language abounds in, *Ce que Dieu garde, est bien gardé*. They, whom God takes care of are in safe protection: but, let me tell you, I would not ride over it for a thousand pounds, nor fall off it for two; and yet I think I dare venture on foot, though if you were not by to laugh at me: I should do it on all four.

Pisc. Well Sir, your mirth becomes you, and I am glad to see you safe over, and now you are welcome into *Stafford-shire*.

Viat. How *Stafford-shire*! what do I there trow! there is not a word of *Stafford-shire* in all my direction.

Pisc. You see you are betray'd into it ; but it shall be in order to something that will make amends ; and 'tis but an ill Mile or two out of your way.

Viat. I believe all things Sir, and doubt nothing. Is this your beloved River *Dove*. 'Tis clear, and swift indeed, but a very little one.

Pisc. You see it here at the worst ; we shall come to it anon again after two Miles riding, and so near as to lye upon the very Banks.

Viat. Would we were there once ; but I hope we have no more of these Alpes to pass over.

Pisc. No, no Sir, only this ascent before you, which you see is not very uneasy, and then you will no more quarrel with your way.

Viat. Well, if ever I come to *London* (of which many a Man there, if he were in my place would make a question ;) I will sit down and write my Travels, and like *Tom Coriate* print them at my own charge. Pray what do you call this Hill we come down ?

Pisc. We call it *Hanson Toot*.

Viat. Why farewell *Hanson Toot*, I'll no more on thee ; I'll go twenty Miles about first : Puh. I sweat, that my shirt sticks to my back.

Pisc. Come Sir, now we are up the Hill, and now how do you ?

Viat. Why very well I humbly thank you Sir, and warm enough I assure you. What have we here, a Church ! As I'me an honest Man a very pretty Church ! Have you Churches in this Country Sir ?

Pisc. You see we have : but had you seen none, why should you make that doubt Sir ?

Viat. Why, if you will not be angry, I'll tell you, I thought my self a Stage, or two beyond *Christendom*.

Pisc. Come, come, wee'l reconcile you to our Country before we part with you ; if shewing you good sport with Angling will do't.

Viat. My respect to you, and that together may do much Sir ; otherwise, to be plain with you, I do not find my self much inclin'd that way.

Pisc. Well Sir, your raillery upon our Mountains has brought us almost home ; and look you where the same River of *Dove* has again met us to bid you welcome, and to invite you to a dish of Trouts to morrow.

Viat. Is this the same we saw at the foot of *Penmen-Maure* ? It is much a finer River here.

Pisc. It will appear yet much finer to morrow. But look you Sir here appears the House, that is now like to be your Inn, for want of a better.

Viat. It appears on a suddain, but not before 'twas lookt for, it stands prettily, and here's wood about it too, but so young, as appears to be of your own planting.

Pisc. It is so, will it please you to alight Sir ; and now permit me after all your pains and dangers to take you in my arms, and to assure you, that you are infinitely welcome.

Viat. I thank you Sir, and am glad with all my heart I am here, for, in down right truth, I am exceeding weary.

Pisc. You will sleep so much the better ; you shall presently have a light supper, and to bed. Come, Sirs, lay the Cloth, and bring what you have presently, and let the Gentleman's Bed be made ready in the mean time in my Father *Waltons* Chamber ; and now Sir here is my service to you, and once more welcome.

Viat. I marry Sir this glass of good Sack has refresht me, and I'll make as bold with your meat ; for the Trot has got me a good stomach.

Pisc. Come Sir fall to then, you see my little supper is always ready when I come home, and I'll make no Stranger of you.

Viat. That your Meal is so soon ready is a sign your Servants know your certain hours, Sir ; I confess I did not expect it so soon ; but now 'tis here, you shall see I will make myself no Stranger.

Pisc. Much good do your heart, and I thank you for that friendly word : and now Sir my service to you in a Cup of *More-Lands* Ale : for you are now in the *More-Lands*, but within a spit, and a stride of the peak ; fill my Friend his Glass.

Viat. Believe me you have good Ale in the *More-Lands* ; far better than that at *Ashborn*.

Pisc. That it may soon be : for *Ashborn* has (which is a kind of a Riddle) always in it the best Mault, and the worst Ale in *England*. Come take away, and bring us some pipes, and a bottle of Ale, and go to your own Suppers. Are you for this diet Sir ?

Viat. Yes Sir, I am for one pipe of Tobacco ; and I perceive yours is very good by the smell.

Pisc. The best I can get in *London* I assure you :
But Sir, now you have thus far comply'd with my
designs, as to take a troublesom Journey into an ill
Country, only to satisfie me ; how long may I hope
to enjoy you ?

Viat. Why truly Sir, as long as I conveniently
can ; and longer I think you would not have me.

Pisc. Not to your inconvenience by any means
Sir, but I see you are weary, and therefore I will pre-
sently wait on you to your Chamber, where take
Counsel of your pillow, and to morrow resolve me.
Here take the lights, and pray follow them, Sir ;
Here you are like to lye, and now I have shew'd you
your Lodging, I beseech you command any thing you
want, and so I wish you good rest.

Viat. Good night Sir.

*“ Yes, sir, I am for one pipe of tobacco ; and I perceive
yours is very good by the smell ”*



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CHAP. III.

PISC. Good morrow *Sir*, what up and drest so early ?

Viat. Yes *Sir*, I have been drest this half hour ; for I rested so well, and have so great a mind either to take, or to see a Trout taken in your fine River, that I could no longer lye a bed.

Pisc. I am glad to see you so brisk this morning, and so eager of sport ; though I must tell you, this day proves so calm, and the Sun rises so bright, as promises no great success to the Angler : but however we'll try, and one way or other we shall sure do something. What will you have to your breakfast, or what will you drink this Morning.

Viat. For Breakfast I never eat any, and for Drink am very indifferent ; but if you please to call for a Glass of Ale, I'me for you ; and let it be quickly if

you please : for I long to see the little Fishing-house you spoke of, and to be at my Lesson.

Pisc. Well *Sir*, You see the Ale is come without Calling ; for though I do not know yours, my people know my diet, which is always one Glass so soon as I am drest, and no more till Dinner, and so my Servants have served you.

Viat. My thanks, and now if you please let us look out this fine morning.

Pisc. With all my heart, Boy take the Key of my Fishing-house, and carry down those two Angle-Rods in the Hall window thither, with my Fish-pannier, Pouch, and landing Net, and stay you there till we come. Come *Sir* we'll walk after, where by the way I expect you should raise all the exceptions against our Country you can.

Viat. Nay *Sir*, do not think me so ill natur'd, nor so uncivil, I only made a little bold with it last night to divert you, and was only in jeast.

You were then in as good earnest as I am now with you : but had you been really angry at it, I could not blame you : For, to say the truth, it is not very taking at first sight : But look you, *Sir*, now you are abroad, does not the Sun shine as bright here as in *Essex*, *Middlesex*, or *Kent*, or any of your Southern Countries ?

Viat. 'Tis a delicate Morning indeed, and I now think this a marvellous pretty place.

Pisc. Whether you think so or no, you cannot oblige me more than to say so ; and those of my friends who know my humour, and are so kind as to comply with it, usually flatter me that way. But look

you *Sir*, now you are at the brink of the Hill, how do you like my River, the Vale it winds through like a Snake, and the scituation of my little Fishing-house ?

Viat. Trust me 'tis all very fine, and the house seems at this distance a neat building.

Pisc. Good enough for that purpose ; and here is a bowling Green too, close by it, so though I am my self no very good bowler, I am not totally devoted to my own pleasure ; but that I have also some regard to other men's. And now *Sir* you are come to the door, pray walk in, and there we will sit, and talk as long as you please.

Viat. Stay, what's here over the door ? *Piscatoribus sacrum.** Why then I perceive I have some Title here, for I am one of them, though one of the worst, and here below it is the Cifer too you spoke of, and 'tis prettily contriv'd. Has my Master *Walton* ever been here to see it ; for it seems new built ?

*There is under this Motto, the Cifer mentioned in the Title Page and some part of the Fishing-house has been described ; but, the pleasantness of the River, Mountains, and Meadows about it, cannot ; unless Sir Philip Sidney, or Mr. Cotton's Father were again alive to do it.

Pisc. Yes he saw it cut in the stone before it was set up ; but never in the posture it now stands : for the house was but building when he was last here, and not rais'd so high as the Arch of the dore, and I am afraid he will not see it yet ; for he has lately writ me word he doubts his coming down this Summer, which I do assure you was the worst news he could possibly have sent me.

Viat. Men must sometimes mind their affairs to make more room for their pleasures ; and 'tis odds he

is as much displeas'd with the business, that keeps him from you, as you are that he comes not. But I am the most pleased with this little house of any thing I ever saw : It stands in a kind of *Peninsula* too, with a delicate clear River about it. I dare hardly go in, lest I should not like it so well within as without ; but by your leave, I'll try. Why, this is better and better, fine lights, finely wainscoted, and all exceeding neat, with a Marble Table and all in the middle !

Pisc. Enough, *Sir*, enough, I have laid open to you the part where I can worst defend my self, and now you attaque me there. Come Boy set two Chairs, and whilst I am taking a Pipe of Tobacco, which is alwaies my Breakfast, we will, if you please, talk of some other Subject.

Viat. None fitter then *Sir* for the time and place, than those Instructions you promis'd.

Pisc. I begin to doubt, by something I discover in you, whether I am able to instruct you, or no ; though, if you are really a stranger to our clear *Northern Rivers* I still think I can ; and therefore, since it is yet too early in the morning at this time of the year, to day being but the Seventh of *March*, to cast a Flie upon the water, if you will direct me what kind of Fishing for a Trout I shall read you a Lecture on, I am willing and ready to obey you.

Viat. Why *Sir*, if you will so far oblige me, and that it may not be too troublesome to you, I would entreat you would run through the whole body of it ; and I will not conceal from you, that I am so far in love with you, your courtesie, and pretty Moreland Seat, as to resolve to stay with you long enough by

Intervals (for I will not oppress you) to hear all you can say upon that Subject.

Pisc. You cannot oblige me more than by such a promise, and therefore without more Ceremony I will begin to tell you ; that my Father *Walton* having read to you before, it would look like a presumption in me, and peradventure would do so in any other man, to pretend to give Lessons for angling after him, who I do really believe understands as much of it, at least as any man in *England*, did I not pre-acquaint you, that I am not tempted to it by any vain opinion of my self, that I am able to give you better directions ; but having from my Childhood pursued the recreation of angling in very clear Rivers (truly I think by much (some of them at least) the clearest in this Kingdom) and the manner of Angling here with us by reason of that exceeding clearness, being something different from the method commonly us'd in others, which by being not near so bright, admit of stronger tackle, and allow a nearer approach to the stream ; I may peradventure give you some Instructions, that may be of use even in your own Rivers, and shall bring you acquainted with more Flies, and shew you how to make them, and with what dubbing too, than he has taken notice of in his *Compleat Angler*.

I beseech you *Sir* do, and if you will lend me your Steel, I will light a Pipe the while, for that is commonly my Breakfast in a morning too.

CHAP. IV.

PISC. Why then *Sir*, to begin methodically, as a Master in any Art should do (and I will not deny, but that I think my self a Master in this) I shall divide Angling for Trout or Grayling into these three ways,

*At the Top,
At the bottom, and
In the Middle.*

Which three ways, though they are all of them (as I shall hereafter endeavour to make it appear) in some sort common to both those kinds of Fish; yet are they not so generally and absolutely so, but that they will necessarily require a distinction, which in due place I will also give you.

*That which we call Angling at the top, is with
a Flie;
At the bottom with a ground-bait.
In the middle with a Minnow, or Ground-bait.*

Angling at the Top is of two sorts,

With a quick Flie :

or,

With an artificial Flie.

That we call Angling at the bottom is also of two sorts,

By hand :

or,

With a Cork, or Float.

That we call Angling in the middle is also of two sorts.

With a Minnow for a Trout :

or,

With a Ground-bait for a Grayling.

Of all which several sorts of Angling, I will, if you can have the patience to hear me, give you the best account I can.

Viat. The trouble will be yours, and mine the pleasure and the obligation : I beseech you therefore to proceed.

Pisc. Why then first of Flie-Fishing.



CHAP. V.

Of Flie-Fishing.

PISC. Flie-Fishing or Fishing at the top, is, as I said before, of two sorts,

With a natural and living Flie :

or,

With an artificial and made Flie.

First then of the natural Flie ; of which we generally use but two sorts, and those but in the two months of *May* and *June* only, namely the *Green Drake*, and the *Stone-Flie* ; though I have made use of a third that way, called the *Chamblet-Flie* with very good success for *Grayling*, but never saw it angled with by any other after this manner, my Master only

excepted, who did many years ago, and was one of the best Anglers, that ever I knew.

These are to be angled with, with a short Line, not much more than half the length of your Rod, if the air be still; or with a longer very near, or all out as long as your Rod, if you have any wind to carry it from you, and this way of Fishing we call *Daping*, *Dabbing* or *Dibbling*, wherein you are always to have your Line flying before you up or down the River as the wind serves, and to angle as near as you can to the bank of the same side whereon you stand, though where you see a Fish rise near you, you may guide your quick Flie over him, whether in the middle, or on the contrary side, and if you are pretty well out of sight, either by kneeling, or the Interposition of a bank, or bush, you may almost be sure to raise, and take him too, if it be presently done; the Fish will otherwise peradventure be remov'd to some other place, if it be in the still deeps, where he is always in motion, and roving up and down to look for prey, though in a stream, you may alwaies almost, especially if there be a good stone near, find him in the same place. Your Line ought in this Case to be three good hairs next the hook, both by reason you are in this kind of angling, to expect the biggest Fish, and also that wanting length to give him Line after he is struck, you must be forc't to tugg for't; to which I will also add, that not an Inch of your Line being to be suffered to touch the water in dibbling; it may be allow'd to be the stronger. I should now give you a Description of those Flies, their shape and colour, and then give you an account

of their breeding, and withal shew you how to keep and use them; but shall defer that to their proper place and season.

Viat. In earnest, Sir, you discourse very rationally of this affair, and I am glad to find my self mistaken in you; for in plain truth I did not expect so much from you.

Pisc. Nay Sir, I can tell you a great deal more than this, and will conceal nothing from you. But I must now come to the second way of angling at the top, which is with an artificial Flie, which also I will shew you how to make before I have done, but first shall acquaint you, that with this you are to angle with a Line longer by a yard and a half, or sometimes two yards than your Rod, and with both this, and the other in a still day in the streams, in a breeze, that curls the water in the still deeps, where (excepting in *May* and *June*, that the best Trouts will lye in shallow streams to watch for prey, and even then too) you are like to hit the best Fish.

For the length of your Rod you are always to be govern'd by the breadth of the River you shall chuse to angle at; and for a Trout River, one of five or six yards long is commonly enough, and longer (though never so neatly and artificially made) it ought not to be, if you intend to Fish at ease, and if otherwise, where lies the sport?

Of these, the best that ever I saw are made in *York-shire*, which are all of one piece; that is to say, of several, six, eight, ten or twelve pieces, so neatly piec't, and ty'd together with fine thred below, and Silk above, as to make it taper, like a switch, and to

ply with a true bent to your hand; and these are too light, being made of Fir wood, for two or three lengths, nearest to the hand, and of other wood nearer to the top, that a Man might very easily manage the longest of them that ever I saw, with one hand; and these when you have given over Angling for a season, being taken to pieces, and laid up in some dry place, may afterwards be set together again in their former postures, and will be as strait, sound, and good as the first hour they were made, and being laid in Oyl and colour according to your Master *Waltons* direction, will last many years.

The length of your line, to a Man that knows how to handle his Rod, and to cast it, is no manner of encumbrance, excepting in woody places, and in landing of a Fish, which every one that can afford to Angle for pleasure, has some body to do for him, and the length of line is a mighty advantage to the fishing at distance; and to fish *fine, and far off* is the first and principal Rule for Trout Angling.

Your Line in this case should never be less, nor ever exceed two hairs next to the hook, for one (though some I know will pretend to more Art, than their fellows) is indeed too few, the least accident, with the finest hand being sufficient to break it: but he that cannot kill a Trout of twenty inches long with two, in a River clear of wood and weeds, as this and some others of ours are, deserves not the name of an Angler.

Now to have your whole line as it ought to be, two of the first lengths, nearest the hook, should be of two hairs a piece, the next three lengths above

them of three, the next three above them of four, and so of five, and six, and seven, to the very top: by which means your Rod and tackle will in a manner be taper from your very hand to your hook; your line will fall much better and straiter, and cast your Flie to any certain place to which the hand and eye shall direct it, with less weight and violence, that would otherwise circle the water, and fright away the fish.

In casting your line, do it always before you, and so that your flie may first fall upon the water, and as little of your line with it as is possible, though if the wind be stiff, you will then of necessity be compell'd to drown a good part of your line to keep your flie in the water: and in casting your flie, you must aim at the further, or nearer Bank, as the wind serves your turn, which also will be with, and against you on the same side several times in an hour, as the River winds in its course, and you will be forc't to Angle up and down by turns accordingly; but are to endeavour, as much as you can, to have the wind evermore on your back, and always be sure to stand as far off the Bank as your length will give you leave when you throw to the contrary side, though when the wind will not permit you so to do, and that you are constrain'd to Angle on the same side whereon you stand, you must then stand on the very brink of the River, and cast your Flie at the utmost length of your Rod and Line, up or down the River as the gale serves.

It only remains, touching your Line, to enquire whether your two hairs next to the hook, are better twisted, or open; and for that, I should declare that

The Windings of the Wye, near Bakewell



I think the open way the better, because it makes less shew in the water, but that I have found an inconvenience, or two, or three, that have made me almost weary of that way; of which one is, that without dispute they are not so strong twisted, as open; another, that they are not easily to be fastned of so exact an equal length in the arming, that the one will not cause the other to bagge, by which means a Man has but one hair, upon the matter, to trust to; and the last is, that these loose flying hairs are not only more apt to catch upon every twig, or bent they meet with; but moreover the hook, in falling upon the water, will very often rebound, and fly back betwixt the hairs, and there stick (which in a rough water especially, is not presently to be discern'd by the Angler) so as the point of the hook shall stand revers't, by which means your Flie swims backward, makes a much greater circle in the water, and till taken home to you, and set right, will never raise any Fish, or if it should, I am sure, but by a very extraordinary chance, can hit none.

Having done with both these ways of fishing at the top; the length of your Rod, and Line and all: I am next to teach you how to make a Flie; and afterwards of what dubbing you are to make the several Flies I shall hereafter name to you.

In making a Flie then (which is not a Hackle or Palmer Flie for of those, and their several kinds we shall have occasion to speak every Month in the Year) you are first to hold your hook fast betwixt the fore finger and thumb of your left hand, with the back of the shanck upwards, and the point towards

them of three, the next three above them of four, and so of five, and six, and seven, to the very top : by which means your Rod and tackle will in a manner be taper from your very hand to your hook ; your line will fall much better and straiter, and cast your Flie to any certain place to which the hand and eye shall direct it, with less weight and violence, that would otherwise circle the water, and fright away the fish.

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It only remains, touching your Line, to enquire whether your two hairs next to the hook, are better twisted, or open ; and for that, I should declare that

and fasten it, and then take your dubbing which is to make the body of your Flie, as much as you think convenient, and holding it lightly, with your hook, betwixt the finger, and thumb of your left hand, take your silk with the right, and twisting it betwixt the finger and thumb of that hand, the dubbing will spin it self about the silk, which when it has done, whip it about the arm'd hook backward, till you come to the setting on of the wings; and then take the feather for the wings, and divide it equally into two parts, and turn them back towards the bend of the Hook, the one on the one side, and the other on the other of the shanck, holding them fast in that posture betwixt the fore finger, and thumb of your left hand, which done, warp them so down, as to stand, and slope towards the bend of the hook, and having warpt up to the end of the shanck, hold the Flie fast betwixt the finger and thumb of your left hand, and then take the silk betwixt the finger, and thumb of your right hand, and where the warping ends, pinch or nip it with your thumb nail against your finger, and strip away the remainder of your dubbing from the silk, and then with the bare silk whip it once or twice about, make the wings to stand in due order, fasten, and cut it off; after which with the point of a needle raise up the dubbing gently from the warp, twitch off the superfluous hairs of your dubbing, leave the wings of an equal length (your Flie will never else swim true) and the work is done. And this way of making a Flie (which is certainly the best of all other) was taught me by a Kinsman of mine, one Captain *Henry Jackson*, a near neighbour, an admirable Flie Angler,



by many degrees the best Flie maker, that ever I yet met with. And now that I have told you how a Flie is to be made, you shall presently see me make one, with which you may peradventure take a Trout this morning, notwithstanding the unlikeliness of the day; for it is now nine of the Clock, and Fish will begin to rise, if they will rise to day; I will walk along by you, and look on, and after dinner I will proceed in my lecture of Flie-Fishing.

Viat. I confess I long to be at the River, and yet I could sit here all day to hear you: but some of the one, and some of the other will do well: and I have a mighty ambition to take a Trout in your River *Dove*.

Pisc. I warrant you shall: I would not for more, than I will speak of but you should, seeing I have so extoll'd my River to you: nay I will keep you here a Month, but you shall have one good day of sport before you go.

Viat. You will find me I doubt too tractable that way; for in good earnest, if business would give me leave, and that if it were fit, I could find in my heart to stay with you for ever.

Pisc. I thank you *Sir*, for that kind expression, and now let me look out my things to make this flie.





CHAP. VI.

PISC. Boy, come give me my dubbing bagg here presently ; and now Sir, since I find you so honest a man, I will make no scruple to lay open my Treasure before you.

Viat. Did every any one see the like ! What a heap of Trumpery is here ! certainly never an Angler in *Europe* has his shop half so well furnisht, as you have.

Pisc. You perhaps may think now, that I rake together this Trumpery, as you call it, for shew only, to the end that such as see it (which are not many I assure you) may think me a great Master in the Art of angling : but let me tell you here are some colours (as contemptible as they seem here) that are very hard to be got, and scarce any one of them, which if it should be lost, I should not miss, and be concern'd

about the loss of it too, once in the year; but look you, Sir, amongst all these I will chuse out these two colours only, of which this is Bears-hair, this darker no great matter what; but I am sure I have kill'd a great deal of Fish with it; and with one or both of these you shall take Trout or Grayling this very day, notwithstanding all disadvantages, or my Art shall fail me.

Viat. You promise comfortably, and I have a great deal of reason to believe every thing you say; but I wish the Flie were made, that we were at it.

Pisc. That will not be long in doing: and pray observe then. You see first how I hold my hook, and thus I begin. Look you here are my first two or three whips about the bare hook, thus I joyn hook and line, thus I put on my wings, thus I twirle and lap on my dubbing, thus I work it up towards the head, thus I part my wings, thus I nip my superfluous dubbing from my silk, thus fasten, thus trim and adjust my Flie, and there's a Flie made, and now how do you like it?

Viat. In earnest, admirably well, and it perfectly resembles a Flie; but we about *London* make the bodies of our Flies both much bigger and longer, so long as even almost to the very beard of the Hook.

Pisc. I know it very well, and had one of those Flies given me by an honest Gentleman, who came with my Father *Walton* to give me a Visit, which (to tell you the truth) I hung in my parlour Window to laugh at: but *Sir*, you know the Proverb, *They who go to Rome, must do as they at Rome do*; and believe me you must here make your Flies after this fashion, or

you will take no Fish. Come I will look you out a Line, and you shall put it on, and try it. There *Sir*, now I think you are fitted, and now beyond the farther end of the walk you shall begin, I see at that bend of the water above, the air crisps the water a little, knit your Line first here, and then go up thither, and see what you can do.

Viat. Did you see that *Sir*?

Pisc. Yes, I saw the Fish, and he saw you too, which made him turn short, you must fish further off, if you intend to have any sport here, this is no *New-River* let me tell you. That was a good Trout believe me, did you touch him?

Viat. No, I would I had, we would not have parted so. Look you there was another; this is an excellent Flie.

Pisc. That Flie I am sure would kill Fish, if the day were right; but they only chew at it I see, and will not take it. Come *Sir*, let us return back to the Fishing-house; this still water I see will not do our business to day; you shall now, if you please, make a Flie your self, and try what you can do in the streams with that, and I know a Trout taken with a Flie of your own making will please you better than twenty with one of mine. Give me that Bag again, *Sirrah*; look you *Sir*, there is a hook, tought, silk, and a feather for the wings, be doing with those, and I will look you out a Dubbing, that I think will do.

Viat. This is a very little hook.

Pisc. That may serve to inform you, that it is for a very little Flie, and you must make your wings accordingly; for as the case stands it must be a little

Flie, and a very little one too, that must do your business. Well said ! believe me you shift your fingers very handsomely ; I doubt I have taken upon me to teach my Master. So here's your dubbing now.

Viat. This dubbing is very black.

Pisc. It appears so in hand ; but step to the doors and hold it up betwixt your eye and the Sun, and it will appear a shining red ; let me tell you never a man in *England* can discern the true colour of a dubbing any way but that, and therefore chuse always to make your Flies on such a bright Sun-shine day as this, which also you may the better do, because it is worth nothing to fish in, here put it on, and be sure to make the body of your Flie as slender as you can. Very good ! Upon my word you have made a marvellous handsom Flie.

Viat. I am very glad to hear it ; 'tis the first that ever I made of this kind in my life.

Pisc. Away, away ! You are a Doctor at it ! but I will not commend you too much, lest I make you proud. Come put it on, and you shall now go downward to some streams betwixt the rocks below the little foot bridg you see there, and try your Fortune. Take heed of slipping into the water as you follow me under this rock : So now you are over, and now throw in.

Viat. This is a fine stream indeed : There's one ! I have him !

Pisc. And a precious catch you have of him ; pull him out ! I see you have a tender hand : This is a diminutive Gentleman, e'en throw him in again, and let him grow till he be more worthy your anger.

Viat. Pardon me, *Sir*, all's Fish that comes to'th' hook with me now. Another!

Pisc. And of the same standing.

Viat. I see I shall have good sport now: Another! and a Grayling. Why you have Fish here at will.

Pisc. Come, come, cross the Bridge, and go down the other side lower, where you will find finer streams, and better sport I hope than this. Look you *Sir*, here is a fine stream now, you have length enough, stand a little further off, let me entreat you, and do but Fish this stream like an Artist, and peradventure a good Fish may fall to your share. How now! what is all gone?

Viat. No, I but touch't him; but that was a Fish worth taking.

Pisc. Why now let me tell you, you lost that Fish by your own fault, and through your own eagerness and haste; for you are never to offer to strike a good Fish, if he do not strike himself, till first you see him turn his head after he has taken your Flie, and then you can never strain your tackle in the striking, if you strike with any manner of moderation. Come throw in one again, and fish me this stream by inches; for I assure you here are very good Fish, both Trout and Grayling, lie here; and at that great stone on the other side, 'tis ten to one a good Trout gives you the meeting.

Viat. I have him now, but he is gone down towards the bottom, I cannot see what he is; yet he should be a good Fish by his weight; but he makes no great stir.

Pisc. Why then, by what you say, I dare venture to assure you, 'tis a Grayling, who is one of the dearest hearted Fishes in the world, and the bigger he is the more easily taken. Look you, now you see him plain; I told you what he was, bring hither that landing net, Boy, and now *Sir*, he is your own; and believe me a good one, sixteen Inches long I warrant him, I have taken none such this year.

Viat. I never saw a Grayling before look so black.

Pisc. Did you not? Why then let me tell you, that you never saw one before in right season: for then a Grayling is very black about his head, gills, and down his back, and has his Belly of a dark grey, dappled with black spots, as you see this is, and I am apt to conclude, that from thence he derives his name of *Umber*. Though I must tell you this Fish is past his prime, and begins to decline, and was in better season at Christmas than he is now. But move on, for it grows towards dinner-time, and there is a very great and fine stream below, under that Rock, that fills the deepest pool in all the River, where you are almost sure of a good Fish.

Viat. Let him come, I'll try a fall with him; but I had thought, that the Grayling had been always in season with the Trout, and had come in, and gone out with him.

Oh no! assure your self a Grayling is a winter-fish: but such a one as would deceive any but such as know him very well indeed; for his flesh, even in his worst season, is so firm, and will so easily calver, that in plain truth he is very good meat at all times;

but in his perfect season (which, by the way, none but an overgrown Grayling will ever be) I think him so good a fish, as to be little inferiour to the best Trout that ever I tasted in my life.

Viat. Here's another skip-jack, and I have rais'd five or six more at least whilst you were speaking: Well, go thy way little *Dove!* thou art the finest River, that ever I saw, and the fullest of fish. Indeed, *Sir*, I like it so well, that I am afraid you will be troubled with me once a year, so long as we two live.

Pisc. I am afraid I shall not *Sir*; but were you once here a *May* or a *June*, if good sport would tempt you, I should then expect you would sometimes see me; for you would then say it were a fine River indeed, if you had once seen the sport at the height.

Viat. Which I will do, if I live, and that you please to give me leave, there was one, and there another.

Pisc. And all this in a strange River, and with a Flie of your own making! why what a dangerous man are you!

Viat. I, *Sir*, but who taught me? and as *Dametas* says by his man *Dorus*, so you may say by me,

*If my man such praises have,
What then have I, that taught the Knave?*

But what have we got here? A Rock springing up in the middle of the River! this is one of the oddest sights, that ever I saw.

Pisc. Why, Sir, from that *Pike*†, that you see
 † *'Tis a* standing up there distant from the rock, this
Rock, in the is call'd *Pike-Pool*: and young Mr. *Izaak*
fashion of *Walton* was so pleas'd with it, as to draw
a Spire- it in *Landscape* in black and white in a
Steeple; blank Book I have at home, as he has done
and, almost several prospects of my house also, which I
as big. It keep for a memorial of his favour, and will
stands in the shew you, when we come up to dinner.
midst of the
River Dove;
and not far
from Mr. Cotton's house, below which place this delicate River takes a swift
Carere betwixt many mighty Rocks, much bigger and bigger than St Pauls
Church, before 'twas burnt. And this Dove being oppos'd by one of the highest
of them, has at last, forc't it self away through it; and after a miles concealment,
appears again with more glory and beauty than before that opposition; running
through the most pleasant Valleys and most fruitful Meadows, that this Nation
can justly boast of.

Viat. Has young Master *Izaak Walton* been here too?

Pisc. Yes marry has he Sir, and that again, and again too, and in *France* since, and at *Rome*, and at *Venice*, and I can't tell where: but I intend to ask him a great many hard questions so soon as I can see him, which will be, God willing, next Month. In the mean time, Sir, to come to this fine stream at the head of this great Pool, you must venture over these slippery cobling stones; believe me, Sir, there you were nimble or else you had been down; but now you are got over, look to your self; for on my word if a Fish rise here, he is like to be such a one, as will endanger your tackle: How now!

Viat. I think you have such command here over the Fishes, that you can raise them by your word, as they say Conjurers can do Spirits, and afterward make

Dovedale



them do what you bid them : for here's a Trout has taken my Flie, I had rather have lost a Crown. What luck's this ! He was a lovely Fish, and turn'd up a side like a Salmon.

Pisc. O Sir, this is a War where you sometimes win, and must sometimes expect to loose. Never concern your self for the loss of your Flie ; for ten to one I teach you to make a better. Who's that calls ?

Serv. Sir, Will it please you to come to dinner ?

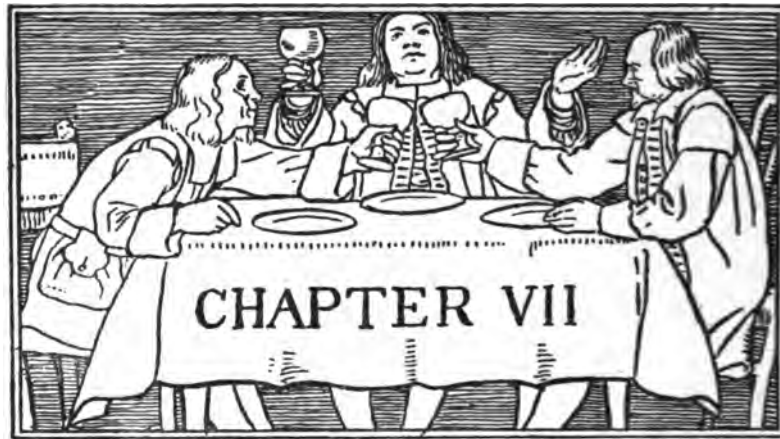
Pisc. We come. You hear Sir we are call'd, and now take your choice, whether you will climb this steep Hill before you, from the top of which you will go directly into the House, or back again over these stepping stones, and about by the Bridg.

Viat. Nay, sure the nearest way is best ; at least my stomach tells me so ; and I am now so well acquainted with your Rocks, that I fear them not.

Pisc. Come then, follow me, and so soon as we have din'd ; we will down again to the little House ; where I will begin at the place I left off about Flie-Fishing, and read you another Lecture ; for I have a great deal more to say upon that Subject.

Viat. The more the better ; I could never have met with a more obliging Master, my first excepted ; nor such sport can all the Rivers about *London* ever afford, as is to be found in this pretty River.

Pisc. You deserve to have better, both because I see you are willing to take pains, and for liking this little so well ; and better I hope to shew you before we part.



V*LAT.* Come Sir, having now well din'd, and being again set in your little House ; I will now challenge your promise, and entreat you to proceed in your instruction for Flie-fishing, which, that you may be the better encourag'd to do, I will assure you, that I have not lost, I think, one syllable of what you have told me ; but very well retain all your directions both for the Rod, Line, and making a Flie, and now desire an account of the Flies themselves.

Pisc. Why Sir, I am ready to give it you, and shall have the whole afternoon to do it in, if no body come in to interrupt us ; for you must know (besides the unfitness of the day) that the afternoons so early in *March* signifie very little to Angling with a Flie, though with a Minnow, or a Worm something might (I confess) be done.

To begin then where I left off, my Father *Walton* tells us but of 12 Artificial flies only, to Angle with at the top, and gives their names ; of which some are common with us here ; and I think I guess at most of them by his description, and I believe they all breed, and are taken in our Rivers, though we do not make them either of the same Dubbing, or fashion. And it may be in the Rivers about *London*, which I presume he has most frequented, and where 'tis likely he has done most execution, there is not much notice taken of many more : but we are acquainted with several others here (though perhaps I may reckon some of his by other names too) but if I do, I shall make you amends by an addition to his Catalogue. And although the forenamed great Master in the Art of Angling (for so in truth he is) tells you that no man should in honesty catch a Trout till the middle of *March*, yet I hope he will give a Man leave sooner to take a Grayling, which, as I told you, is in the dead Months in his best season ; and do assure you (which I remember by a very remarkable token) I did once take upon the sixt day of December one, and only one, of the biggest Graylings and the best in season, that ever I yet saw, or tasted ; and do usually take Trouts too, and with a Flie, not only before the middle of this Month, but almost every year in *February*, unless it be a very ill spring indeed, and have sometimes in *January*, so early as New-years-tide, and in frost and snow taken Grayling in a warm sunshine day for an hour or two about Noon ; and to fish for him with a Grub it is then the best time of all.

I shall therefore begin my Flie-fishing with that Month (though I confess very few begin so soon, and that such as are so fond of the sport as to embrace all opportunities, can rarely in that Month find a day fit for their purpose) and tell you, that upon my knowledge these Flies in a warm sun, for an hour or two in the day, are certainly taken.

January.

1. A red brown with wings of the Male of a Malard almost white: the dubbing of the tail of a black long coated Cur, such as they commonly make muffs of; for the hair on the tail of such a Dog dies, and turns to a red Brown, but the hair of a smooth coated Dog of the same colour will not do, because it will not dye, but retains its natural colour, and this flie is taken in a warm sun, this whole Month thorough.

2. There is also a very little bright Dun Gnat, as little as can possibly be made, so little as never to be fisht with, with above one hair next the hook, and this is to be made of a mixt dubbing of Martins fur, and the white of a Hares scut; with a very white, and small wing; and 'tis no great matter how fine you fish, for nothing will rise in this Month but a Grayling, and of them I never at this season saw any taken with a Flie, of above a foot long in my life: but of little ones about the bigness of a smelt in a warm day, and a glowing Sun, you may take enough with these two Fishes, and they are both taken the whole North through.



February.

1. Where the Red-brown of the last Month ends, another almost of the same colour begins with this, saving that the dubbing of this must be of something a blacker colour, and both of them warpt on with red silk ; the dubbing that should make this Flie, and that is the truest colour, is to be got of the black spot of a Hogs ear : not that a black spot in any part of the Hog will not afford the same colour ; but that the hair in that place is by many degrees softer, and more fit for the purpose : his wing must be as the other, and this kills all this Month, and is call'd the lesser Red-brown.

2. This Month also a plain Hackle, or palmer-Flie made with a rough black body, either of black Spaniels furr, or the whirl of an *Estridge* feather, and the red Hackle of a Capon over all, will kill, and if the weather be right make very good sport.

3. Also a lesser Hackle with a black body also, silver twist over that, and a red feather over all, will fill your pannier if the Month be open, and not bound up in Ice, and snow, with very good Fish ; but in case of a frost and snow, you are to Angle only with the smallest Gnats, Browns and Duns you can make, and with those are only to expect Graylings no bigger, than sprats.

4. In this Month, upon a whirling round water, we have a great Hackle, the body black, and wrapped with a red feather of a Capon untrim'd ; that is, the whole length of the Hackle staring out (for we sometimes barb the Hackle feather short all over ; some-

times barb it only a little, and sometimes barb it close underneath, leaving the whole length of the feather on the top, or back of the Flie which makes it swim better, and as occasion serves kills very great Fish.

5. We make use also in this Month of another great Hackle the body black, and rib'd over with Gold twist, and a red feather over all, which also does great execution.

6. Also a great Dun, made with Dun Bears Hair, and the wings of the grey feather of a Mallard near unto his tail, which is absolutely the best Flie can be thrown upon a River this Month, and with which an Angler shall have admirable sport.

7. We have also this Month the great blew Dun, the dubbing of the bottom of Bears hair next to the roots, mixt with a little blew Camlet, the wings of the dark grey feather of a Mallard.

8. We have also this Month a Dark-Brown, the dubbing of the brown hair of the Flanck of a brended Cow, and the wings of the grey-Drakes feather.

And note, that these several Hackels, or Palmer Flies, are some for one Water, and one Skye, and some for another, and according to the change of those, we alter their size, and colour, and note also, that both in this, and all other Months of the Year, when you do not certainly know what Flie is taken ; or cannot see any Fish to rise, you are then to put on a small Hackle, if the Water be clear, or a bigger if something dark, untill you have taken one, and then thrusting your finger thorough his Guils, to pull out

his Gorge, which being open'd with your knife, you will then discover what Flie is taken, and may fit your self accordingly.

For the making of a Hackle, or Palmer Flie my Father *Walton* has already given you sufficient direction.

March.

For this Month you are to use all the same Hackels, and Flies with the other, but you are to make them less.

1. We have besides for this Month a little Dun call'd a whirling Dun (though it is not the whirling Dun indeed, which is one of the best Flies we have) and for this the dubbing must be of the bottom fur of a Squirrels tail and the wing of the grey feather of a Drake.

2. Also a bright brown, the dubbing either of the brown of a Spaniel, or that of a Cows flanck, with a Grayling.

3. Also a whitish Dun made of the roots of Camels hair, and the wings of the grey feather of a Mallard.

4. There is also for this Month a Flie, call'd the Thorn Tree Flie, the dubbing an absolute black mixt with eight or ten hairs of *Isabella* colour'd Mohair, the body as little as can be made, and the wings of a bright Malards feather, an admirable Flie, and in great repute amongst us for a killer.

5. There is besides this another blew Dun, the dubbing of which it is made being thus to be got. Take a small tooth comb, and with it comb the neck

of a black Grey hound, and the down that sticks in the teeth, will be the finest blew, that ever you saw. The wings of this Flie can hardly be too white, and he is taken about the tenth of this Month, and lasteth till the four and twentieth.

6. From the tenth of this Month also till towards the end, is taken a little black Gnat; the dubbing either of the fur of a black water-Dog, or the down of a young black water-Coot, the wings of the Male of a Mallard as white as may be, the body as little as you can possibly make it, and the wings as short as his body.

7. From the Sixteenth of this Month also to the end of it, we use a bright brown, the dubbing for which, is to be had out of a Skinners Lime-pits, and of the hair of an abortive Calf, which the lime will turn to be so bright, as to shine like Gold, for the wings of this Flie, the feather of a brown Hen is best; which Flie is also taken till the tenth of *April*.

April.

All the same Hackles, and Flies that were taken in *March* will be taken in this Month also, with this distinction only concerning the Flies, that all the browns be lapt with red silk, and the Duns with yellow.

1. To these a small bright brown, made of Spaniels fur, with a light grey wing; in a bright day, and a clear water is very well taken.

2. We have too a little dark brown, the dubbing

of that colour, and some violet Camlet mixt, and the wing of the grey feather of a Mallard.

3. From the sixth of this Month to the tenth, we have also a Flie call'd the violet Flie, made of a dark violet stuff, with the wings of the grey feather of a Mallard.

4. About the twelfth of this Month comes in the Flie call'd the whirling Dun, which is taken every day about the mid time of day all this Month through, and by fits from thence to the end of *June*, and is commonly made of the down of a Fox Cub, which is of an Ash colour at the roots, next the skin, and ribb'd about with yellow silk, the wings of the pale grey feather of a Mallard.

5. There is also a yellow Dun, the dubbing of Camels hair, and yellow Camlet, or wool mixt, and a white grey wing.

6. There is also this Month another little brown, besides that mention'd before, made with a very slender body, the dubbing of dark brown, and violet Camlet mixt, and a grey wing; which though the direction for the making be near the other, is yet another Flie, and will take when the other will not, especially in a bright day, and a clear water.

7. About the twentieth of this Month comes in a Flie call'd the Horse-flesh Flie, the dubbing of which is a blew Mohair, with pink colour'd, and red Tammy mixt, a light colour'd wing, and a dark brown head. This flie is taken best in an Evening, and kills from two hours before Sun set till twilight, and is taken the Month thorough.

May.

And now Sir, that we are entring into the Month of *May*, I think it requisite to beg not only your attention; but also your best patience; for I must now be a little tedious with you, and dwell upon this Month longer than ordinary; which that you may the better endure, I must tell you, this Month deserves, and requires to be insisted on, for as much as it alone, and the next following afford more pleasure to the Flie-Angler, than all the rest; and here it is that you are to expect an account of the Green Drake, and stone-flie, promis'd you so long ago, and some others that are peculiar to this Month, and part of the Month following, and that (though not so great either in bulk, or name) do yet stand in competition with the two before named, and so, that it is yet undecided amongst the Anglers to which of the pretenders to the Title of the May-flie, it does properly, and duly belong, neither dare I (where so many of the learned in this Art of Angling are got in dispute about the controversie) take upon me to determine; but I think I ought to have a vote amongst them, and according to that priviledg, shall give you my free opinion, and peradventure when I have told you all, you may incline to think me in the right.

Viat. I have so great a deference to your judgment in these matters, that I must always be of your opinion; and the more you speak, the faster I grow to my attention, for I can never be weary of hearing you upon this Subject.

Pisc. Why that's encouragement enough; and

now prepare your self for a tedious Lecture ; but I will first begin with the flies of less esteem (though almost anything will take a Trout in *May*) that I may afterwards insist the longer upon those of greater note, and reputation ; know therefore that the first flie we take notice of in this Month, is call'd the Turkey-flie, the.

The dubbing ravell'd out of some blew stuff, and lapt about with yellow silk, the wings of a grey Mallards feather.

2. next a great Hackle ; or Palmer-flie, with a yellow body ribb'd with Gold twist, and large wings of a Mallards feather dyed yellow, with a red Capons Hackle over all,

3. Then a black flie, the dubbing of a black Spaniels fur, and the wings of a grey Mallards feather.

4. After that a light brown with a slender body, the dubbing twirl'd upon small red silk, and rais'd with the point of a needle, that the ribs or rows of silk may appear through the wings of the grey feather of a Mallard.

5. Next a little Dun, the dubbing of a Bears dun whirl'd upon yellow silk, the wings of the grey feather of a Mallard.

6. Then a white Gnat, with a pale wing, and a black head.

7. There is also this Month a flie call'd the Peacock-flie, the body made of a whirl of a Peacocks feather, with a red head, and wings of a Mallards feather.

8. We have then another very killing flie, known

by the name of the Dun-Cut, the dubbing of which is a Bears dun, with a little blew, and yellow mixt with it, a large dun wing, and two horns at the head, made of the hairs of a Squirrels tail.

9. The next is the Cow-Lady, a little flie, the body of a Peacocks feather, the wing of a red feather, or strips of the red hackle of a Cock.

10. We have then the Cow-turd flie; the dubbing light brown, and yellow mixt, the wing the dark grey feather of a Mallard. And note that besides these abovementioned, all the same Hackles and Flies, the Hackles only brighter, and the Flies smaller, that are taken in *April*, will also be taken this Month, as also all Browns, and Duns: and now I come to my Stone-Flie, and Green-Drake, which are the Matadores for Trout and Grayling, and in their season kill more Fish in our *Derbyshire* Rivers, than all the rest past, and to come, in the whole Year besides.

But first I am to tell you, that we have four several flies which contend for the Title of the May-Flie, namely,

*The Green-Drake,
The Stone-Flie,
The Black Flie, and
The little yellow May-Flie.*

And all these have their Champions and Advocates to dispute, and plead their priority; though I do not understand why the two last named should; the first two having so manifestly the advantage, both in their

beauty, and the wonderful execution they do in their season.

11. Of these the Green-Drake comes in about the twentieth of this Month, or betwixt that, and the latter end (for they are sometimes sooner, and sometimes later according to the quality of the Year) but never well taken till towards the end of this Month, and the beginning of *June*. The Stone-Flie comes much sooner, so early as the middle of *April*; but is never well taken till towards the middle of *May*, and continues to kill much longer than the Green-Drake stays with us, so long as to the end almost of *June*; and indeed, so long as there are any of them to be seen upon the water; and sometimes in an Artificial Flie, and late at night, or before Sun rise in a morning, longer.

Now both these Flies (and I believe many others, though I think not all) are certainly, and demonstratively bred in the very Rivers where they are taken, our Caddis or Cod-bait which lye under stones in the bottom of the water, most of them turning into those two Flies, and being gather'd in the husk, or crust, near the time of their maturity, are very easily known, and distinguish'd, and are of all other the most remarkable, both for their size, as being of all other the biggest (the shortest of them being a full inch long, or more) and for the execution they do, the Trout, and Grayling being much more greedy of them, than of any others; and indeed the Trout never feeds fat, nor comes into his perfect season, till these Flies come in.

Of these the Green-Drake never discloses from

his husk, till he be first there grown to full maturity, body, wings, and all, and then he creeps out of his cell, but with his wings so crimpt, and ruffled, by being prest together in that narrow room, that they are for some hours totally useless to him, by which means he is compelled either to creep upon the flags, sedges, and blades of grass (if his first rising from the bottom of the water be near the banks of the River) till the Air, and Sun, stiffen and smooth them ! or if his first appearance above water happen to be in the middle, he then lies upon the surface of the water like a Ship at Hull (for his feet are totally useless to him there, and he cannot creep upon the water as the Stone-Flie can) untill his wings have got stiffness to fly with, if by some Trout, or Grayling he be not taken in the interim (which ten to one he is) and then his wings stand high, and clos'd exact upon his back, like the Butterfly, and his motion in flying is the same. His Body is in some of a paler, in others of a darker yellow (for they are not all exactly of a colour) rib'd with rows of green, long, slender, and growing sharp towards the tail, at the end of which he has three long small whisks of a very dark colour, almost black, and his tail turns up towards his back like a Mallard, from whence questionless he has his name of the green-Drake. These (as I think I told you before) we commonly dape, or dabble with, and having gather'd great store of them into a long draw box, with holes in the Cover to give them Air (where also they will continue fresh, and vigorous a night or more) we take them out thence by the wings, and bait them thus upon the Hook. We first take one

The Valley of the Lathkill



(for we commonly Fish with two of them at a time) and putting the point of the Hook into the thickest part of his Body under one of his wings, run it directly through and out at the other side, leaving him spitted cross upon the Hook, and then taking the other, put him on after the same manner, but with his head the contrary way, in which posture they will live upon the Hook, and play with their wings for a quarter of an hour, or more : but you must have a care to keep their wings dry, both from the water, and also that your fingers be not wet when you take them out to bait them ; for then your bait is spoil'd.

Having now told you how to Angle with this Flie alive ; I am now to tell you next, how to make an Artificial Flie, that will so perfectly resemble him, as to be taken in a rough windy day, when no Flies can lye upon the water ; nor are to be found about the Banks and sides of the River, to a wonder, and with which you shall certainly kill the best Trout, and Grayling in the River.

The Artificial Green-Drake then is made upon a large Hook, the Dubbing, Camels hair, bright Bears hair, the soft down that is comb'd from a Hogs bristles, and yellow Camlet well mixt together, the body long, and ribb'd about with green silk, or rather yellow waxt with green-wax, the whisks of the tail of the long hairs of sables, or fitchet, and the wings of the white grey feather of a Mallard dyed yellow, which also is to be dyed thus.

Take the root of a Barbary Tree, and shave it, and put to it Woody viss, with as much Alum as a Walnut,

and boyl your feathers in it with Rain water ; and they will be of a very fine yellow.

I have now done with the Green-drake excepting to tell you, that he is taken at all hours during his season, whilst there is any day upon the Sky ; and with a made Flie, I once took, ten days after he was absolutely gone, in a Cloudy day, after a shower, and in a whistling wind, five and thirty very great Trouts, and Graylings betwixt five, and eight of the Clock in the Evening, and had no less than five, or six Flies with three good hairs a piece taken from me in despite of my heart, besides.

12. I should now come next to the Stone-Flie, but there is another Gentleman in my way : that must of necessity come in between, and that is the Grey-Drake, which in all shapes, and dimensions is perfectly the same with the other, but quite almost of another colour, being of a paler, and more livid yellow, and green, and ribb'd with black quite down his body, with black shining wings, and so diaphanous and tender, cob-web like, that they are of no manner of use for Daping ; but come in, and are taken after the Green-Drake, and in an Artificial Flie kill very well, which Flie is thus made, the Dubbing of the down of a Hogs bristles, and black Spaniels fur mixt, and ribb'd down the body with black silk, the whisks of the hairs of the beard of a black Cat, and the wings of the black grey feather of a Mallard.

And now I come to the Stone-Flie, but am afraid I have already wearied your patience, which if I have, I beseech you freely tell me so, and I will defer the

remaining instructions for Flie-Angling till some other time.

Viat. No truly Sir, I can never be weary of hearing you : but if you think fit, because I am afraid I am too troublesom, to refresh your self with a glass, and a pipe ; you may afterwards proceed, and I shall be exceedingly pleas'd to hear you.

Pisc. I thank you *Sir* for that motion ; for believe me I am dry with talking, Here Boy, give us here a Bottle, and a Glass ; and *Sir*, my service to you, and to all our Friends in the South.

Viat. Your Servant *Sir*, and I'll pledg you as heartily ; for the good powder'd beef I eat at Dinner, or something else, has made me thirsty.



VIAT. So, *Sir*, I am now ready for another Lesson so soon as you please to give it me.

Pisc. and I, *Sir*, as ready to give you the best I can. Having told you the time of the Stone-Flie's coming in, and that he is bred of a Caddis in the very River where he is taken, I am next to tell you, that

13. This same Stone-Flie has not the patience to continue in his Crust, or Husk till his wings be full grown; but so soon as ever they begin to put out, that he feels himself strong (at which time we call him a Jack) squeezes himself out of Prison, and crawls to the top of some stone, where if he can find a chink that will receive him, or can creep betwixt two stones, the one lying hollow upon the other (which, by the way, we also lay so purposely



to find them) he there lurks till his wings be full grown, and there is your only place to find him (and from thence doubtless he derives his name) though, for want of such convenience, he will make shift with the hollow of a Bank, or any other place where the wind cannot come to fetch him off. His body is long, and pretty thick, and as broad at the tail almost, as in the middle ; his colour a very fine brown, ribb'd with yellow, and much yellower on the belly than the back, he has two or three whisks also at the tag of his tail, and two little horns upon his head, his wings, when full grown, are double, and flat down his back of the same colour, but rather darker than his body, and longer than it ; though he makes but little use of them, for you shall rarely see him flying, though often swimming, and padling with several feet he has under his belly upon the water, without stirring a wing : but the Drake will mount Steeple height into the Air, though he is to be found upon flags and grass too, and indeed every where high and low, near the River ; there being so many of them in their season, as were they not a very inoffensive insect, would look like a Plague ; and these Drakes (since I forgot to tell you before, I will tell you here) are taken by the Fish to that incredible degree, that upon a calm day you shall see the still deeps continually all over circles by the Fishes rising, who will gorge themselves with those Flies, till they purge again out of their Guills ; and the Trouts are at that time so lusty and strong, that one of eight, or ten inches long, will then more struggle, and tug, and more endanger your

Tackle, than one twice as big in winter : but pardon this digression.

This Stone-flie then we dape or dibble with as with the Drake, but with this difference, that whereas the green-Drake is common both to stream and still, and to all hours of the day, we seldome dape with this but in the streams, (for in a whistling wind a made Flie in the deep is better, and rarely, but early and late, it not being so proper for the mid-time of the day ; though a great *Grayling* will then take it very well in a sharp stream, and here and there a Trout too : but much better toward 8, 9, 10, or eleven of the clock at night, at which time also the best Fish rise, and the latter the better, provided you can see your Flie, and when you cannot, a made Flie will murder, which is to be made thus : The dubbing of bears dun with a little brown and yellow Camlet very well mixt ; but so plac'd that your Flie may be more yellow on the belly and towards the tail underneath than in any other part, and you are to place two or three hairs of a black Cats beard on the top of the hook in your arming, so as to be turn'd up, when you warp on your dubbing, and to stand almost upright, and staring one from another, and note that your Flie is to be ribb'd with yellow silk, and the wings long, and very large, of the dark grey feather of a Mallard.

14. The next *May-Flie* is the black Flie, made with a black body of the whirle of an Ostridge-feather, rib'd with silver twist, and the black hackle of a Cock over all ; and is a killing Flie, but not to be nam'd with either of the other.

15. The last *May-Flie* (that is of the four pretenders) is the little yellow *May-Flie*, in shape exactly the same with the green Drake, but a very little one, and of as bright a yellow as can be seen; which is made of a bright yellow Camlet, and the wings of a white grey feather died yellow.

16. The last Flie for this month (and which continues all *June*, though it comes in the middle of *May*) is the Flie called the Camlet-Flie, in shape like a moth with fine diaped, or water-wings, and with which (as I told you before) I sometimes used to dabble; and Grayling will rise mightily at it. But the artificial Flie (which is only in use amongst our Anglers) is made of a dark brown shining Camlet, rib'd over with a very small light green silk, the wings of the double grey feather of a Mallard; and 'tis a killing Flie for small Fish, and so much for *May*.

June.

From the first to the four and twentieth, the green-Drake and Stone-Flie are taken (as I told you before.)

1. From the twelfth to the four and twentieth late at night is taken a Flie, called the Owl-Flie; the dubbing of a white Weesel's tail, and a white Grey wing.

2. We have then another *Dunne*, call'd the *Barm-flie*, from it's yesty colour, the dubbing of the fur of a yellow dun Cat, and a grey wing of a Mallards feather.

3. We have also a hackle with a purple body, whipt about with a red Capons feather.

4. As also a gold twist Hackle with a purple body, whipt about with a red Capons feather.

5. To these we have this month a Flesh-flie, the dubbing of a black Spaniels furre, and blew wool mixt, and a grey wing.

6. Also another little Flesh-flie, the body made of the whirl of a Peacocks feather, and the wings of the grey feather of a Drake.

7. We have then the Peacock-flie, the body and wing both made of the feather of that bird.

8. There is also the flying Ant, or Ant-flie, the dubbing of brown and red Camlet mixt, with a light grey wing.

9. We have likewise a brown Gnat, with a very slender body of brown and violet Camlet well mixt, and a light grey wing.

10. And another little black Gnat, the dubbing of black mohair, and a white Grey wing.

11. As also a green Grashopper, the dubbing of green and yellow Wool mixed, rib'd over with green Silk, and a red Capons feather over all.

12. And lastly a little dun Grashopper, the body slender made of a dun Camlet, and a dun hackle at the top.

July.

First all the small flies that were taken in *June*, are also taken in this month.

1. We have then the Orange Flie, the dubbing of Orange Wool, and the wing of a black feather.

2. Also a little white dun, the body made of white Mohair, and the wings blew of a Herons feather.

3. We have likewise this month a Wasp-flie, made either of a dark brown dubbing, or else the furre of a black Cats tail, ribb'd about with yellow silk, and the wing of the grey feather of a Mallard.

4. Another flie taken this month is a black Hackle, the body made of the whirle of a Peacock's feather, and a black hackle feather on the top.

5. We have also another made of a Peacocks whirle without wings.

6. Another flie also is taken this month call'd the shel-flie, the dubbing of yellow-green Jersey Wool, and a little white Hoggs hair mixt, which I call the Palm-flie, and do believe it is taken for a Palm, that drops off the willows into the water; for this flie I have seen Trouts take little pieces of moss, as they have swam down the River, by which I conclude that the best way to hit the right colour is to compare your dubbing with the Moss, and mix the colours as near as you can.

7. There is also taken this month a black blew Dun, the dubbing of the furre of a black Rabbet mixt with a little yellow, the wings of the Feather of a blew Pigeons wing.

August.

The same Flies with *July*.

1. Then another Art-flie, the dubbing of the black brown hair of a Cow, some red warpt in for the Tagg of his tail, and a dark wing, a killing flie.

2. Next a flie call'd the Fern-flie, the dubbing of the fur of a Hares neck, that is of the colour of Fearn, or Brackin, with a darkish grey wing of a Mallards feather, a killer too.

3. Besides these we have a white Hackle, the body of white Mo-hair, and wrapped about with a white Hackle Feather, and this is assuredly taken for Thistle-down.

4. We have also this month a Harry-long-leggs, the body made of Bears dun, and blew Wool mixt, and a brown hackle Feather over all.

Lastly in this month all the same browns and duns are taken, that were taken in *May*.

September.

This month the same Flies are taken, that were taken in *April*.

1. To which I shall only add a Camel-brown Flie, the dubbing pull'd out of the lime of a Wall whipt about with red Silk, and a darkish grey Mallards feather for the wing.

2. And one other for which we have no name; but it is made of the black hair of a Badgers skin mixt with the yellow softest down of a sanded Hog.

October.

The same Flies are taken this month, that were taken in *March*.

Novemb.

The same Flies that were taken in *February*, are taken this month also.

December.

Few men angle with the Flie this month, no more than they do in *January*: but yet if the weather be warm (as I have known it sometimes in my life to be, even in this cold Country where it is least expected) then a brown that looks red in the hand, and yellowish betwixt your eye and the Sun; will both raise and kill in a clear water, and free from snow-broth: but at the best 'tis hardly worth a man's labour.

And now *Sir*, I have done with Flie-fishing, or angling at the top, excepting once more to tell you, that of all these (and I have named you a great many very killing flies) none are fit to be compared with the Drake and Stone-flie, both for many and very great fish; and yet there are some daies, that are by no means proper for the sport, and in a calm you shall not have near so much sport even with daping, as in a whistling gale of wind, for two reasons, both because you are not then so easily discovered by the fish, and also because there are then but few flies can lye upon the water; for where they have so much choice, you may easily imagine they will not be so eager and forward to rise at a bait, that both the shadow of your body, and that of your Rod, nay of your very line, in a hot calm day will, in spite of your best caution, render suspected to them: but even then, in swift streams, or by sitting down patiently behind a willow bush, you shall do more execution than at almost any other time of the year with any other flie, though one may sometimes hit of a day, when he shall come home very well satisfied with

sport with several other Flies : but with these two, the green Drake and the Stone-flie, I do verily believe I could some daies in my life, had I not been weary of slaughter, have loaden a lusty boy, and have sometimes, I do honestly assure you, given over upon the meer account of satiety of sport ; which will be no hard matter to believe, when I likewise assure you, that with this very flie, I have in this very River that runs by us in three or four hours taken thirty, five and thirty, and forty of the best Trouts in the River. What shame and pity is it then, that such a River should be destroyed by the basest sort of people, by those unlawful ways of fire and netting in the night, and of damming, groping, spearing, hanging and hooking by day, which are now grown so common, that, though we have very good Laws to punish such Offenders, every Rascal does it, for ought I see, *impune*.

To conclude, I cannot now in honesty but frankly tell you, that many of these flies I have nam'd, at least so made as we make them here, will peradventure do you no great service in your Southern Rivers, and will not conceal from you, but that I have sent flies to several friends in *London*, that for ought I could ever hear, never did any great feats with them, and therefore if you intend to profit by my instructions, you must come to angle with me here in the Peak ; and so, if you please, let us walk up to Supper, and to morrow, if the day be windy, as our daies here commonly are, 'tis ten to one but we shall take a good dish of fish for dinner.



*“What shame and pity is it then that such a river
should be destroyed by the basest sort of people.”*

CHAP. IX.

PISC. A good day to you, *Sir*; I see you will
alwaies be stirring before me.

Viat. Why, to tell you the truth, I am so allur'd
with the sport I had yesterday, that I long to be at
the River again, and when I heard the wind sing in
my Chamber window, could forbear no longer, but
leap out of bed, and had just made an end of dress-
ing my self, as you came in.

Pisc. Well, I am both glad you are so ready for
the day, and that the day is so fit for you, and look
you I have made you three or four flies this morning,
this silver twist hackle, this bears dun, this light
brown and this dark brown, any of which I dare say
will do; but you may try them all, and see which
does best, only I must ask your pardon that I cannot
wait upon you this Morning, a little business being

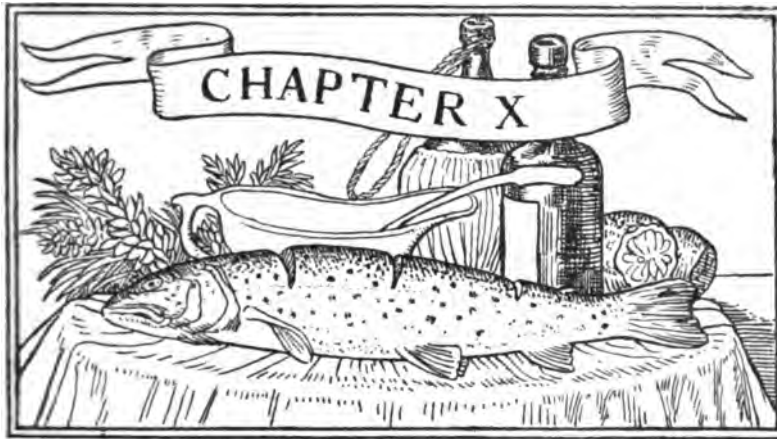
fal'n out, that for two or three hours, will deprive me of your Company: but I'll come call you home to dinner, and my man shall attend you.

Viat. Oh *Sir*, mind your affairs by all means, do but lend me a little of your skill to these fine flies, and, unless it have forsaken me since yesterday, I shall find luck of my own I hope to do something.

Pisc. The best Instruction I can give you, is, that, seeing the wind curls the water, and blows the right way, you would now angle up the still deep to day; for betwixt the Rocks where the streams are, you would find it now too brisk, and besides I would have you take fish in both Waters.

Viat. I'll obey your Direction, and so a good morning to you. Come young man, let you and I walk together. But heark you, *Sir*, I have not done with you yet; I expect another Lesson for angling at the bottom, in the afternoon.

Pisc. Well, *Sir*, I'll be ready for you.



PISC. Oh *Sir*, are you return'd? you have but just prevented me. I was coming to call you.

Viat. I am glad then I have sav'd you the labour.

Pisc. And how have you sped.

Viat. You shall see that, *Sir*, presently, look you *Sir*, here are three * brace of Trouts, one of them the biggest but one, that ever I kill'd with a flie in my life, and yet I lost a bigger than that, with my Flie to boo't, and here are three Graylings, and one of them longer by some inches than that I took yesterday, and yet I thought that a good one too.

* Spoke like
a South-
Country
man.

Pisc. Why you have made a pretty good mornings work on't, and now *Sir*, what think you of our River Dove?

Viat. I think it to be the best Trout River in *England*; and am so far in love with it, that if it were mine, and that I could keep it to my self, I would not exchange that water, for all the Land it runs over; to be totally debarr'd from't.

Pisc. That Complement to the River, speaks you a true lover of the Art of angling: And now, *Sir*, to make part of amends for sending you so uncivilly out alone this Morning, I will my self dress you this dish of fish for your dinner, walk but into the parlour, you will find one Book or other in the window to entertain you the while, and you shall have it presently.

Viat. Well *Sir*, I obey you.

Pisc. Look you *Sir*, have I not made haste?

Viat. Believe me *Sir*, that you have, and it looks so well, I long to be at it.

Pisc. Fall too then; now *Sir* what say you! am I a tolerable Cook or no?

Viat. So good a one, that I did never eat so good Fish in my life. This Fish is infinitely better, than any I ever tasted of the kind in my life. 'Tis quite another thing, than our Trouts about *London*.

Pisc. You would say so, if that Trout you eat of were in right season: but pray eat of the Grayling, which upon my word at this time, is by much the better Fish.

Viat. In earnest, and so it is: and I have one request to make to you, which is, that as you have taught me to catch Trout and Grayling, you will now teach me how to dress them as these are drest, which questionless is of all other the best way.

Pisc. That I will Sir, with all my heart, and am glad you like them so well, as to make that request, and they are drest thus.

Take your Trout, wash, and dry him with a clean Napkin; then open him, and having taken out his guts, and all the blood, wipe him very clean within, but wash him not, and give him three scotches with a Knife to the bone on one side only. After which take a clean Kettle, and put in as much hard stale Beer (but it must not be dead) Vinegar, and a little Whitewine, and Water, as will cover the Fish you intend to boyl; then throw into the Liquor a good quantity of Salt, the Rind of a Lemon, a handful of slic't Horse-Radish root, with a handsom little fagot of Rosemary, Time, and Winter-Savory. Then set your Kettle upon a quick fire of wood, and let your Liquor boyl up to the height before you put in your Fish, and then, if there be many, put them in one by one, that they may not so cool the Liquor, as to make it fall; and whilst your Fish is boyling, beat up the Butter for your Sawce with a Ladle full or two of the Liquor it is boyling in, and being boyld enough, immediately pour the Liquor from the Fish, and being laid in a Dish, pour your Butter upon it, and strewing it plentifully over with shav'd Horse-Raddish, and a little pounded Ginger, garnish your sides of your Dish, and the Fish it self with a slic't Lemon, or two, and serve it up. A Grayling is also to be drest exactly after the same manner, saving that he is to be scal'd, which a Trout never is: and that must be done either with ones nails, or very lightly and carefully with a Knife for bruising the Fish. And note, that these kinds of Fish, a Trout especially, if he is not eaten within

four, or five hours after he be taken, is worth nothing.

But come *Sir*, I see you have din'd, and therefore if you please we will walk down again to the little House, and there I will read you a Lecture of Angling at the bottom.



CHAP. XI.

V*IAT.* So *Sir*, Now we are here, and set: let me have my instructions for Angling for Trout, and Grayling at the bottom; which though not so easy, so cleanly, nor (as 'tis said) so Gentile a way of Fishing, as with a Flie; is yet (if I mistake not) a good holding way and takes Fish when nothing else will.

Pisc. You are in the right, it does so: and a worm is so sure a bait at all times, that, excepting in a Flood, I would I had laid thousand pounds that I kill'd Fish more, or less with it, Winter or Summer every day throughout the Year; those days always excepted, that, upon a more serious account always ought so to be. But not longer to delay you, I will begin, and tell you, that Angling at the bottom is also commonly of two sorts (and yet there is a third

way of Angling with a Ground-bait, and to very great effect too, as shall be said hereafter) namely.

By Hand:

or,

With a Cork, or Float.

That we call Angling by hand is of three sorts.

The first with a line about half the length of the Rod, a good weighty plum, and three hairs next the Hook, which we call a running Line, and with one large Brandling, or a dew-worm of a moderate size, or two small ones of the first, or any other sort, proper for a Trout, of which my Father *Walton* has already given you the names, and sav'd me a labour; or indeed almost any worm whatever; for if a Trout be in the humour to bite, it must be such a worm as I never yet saw, that he will refuse; and if you Fish with two, you are then to bait your hook thus. You are first to run the point of your hook in at the very head of your first worm, and so down through his body till it be past the knot, and then let it out, and strip the worm above the arming (that you may not bruise it with your fingers) till you have put on the other by running the point of the Hook in below the knot, and upwards through his body towards his head till it be but just cover'd with the head, which being done, you are then to slip the first worm down over the arming again, till the knots of both worms meet together.

The second way of Angling by hand, and with a running Line, is with a Line something longer than

the former, and with Tackle made after this same manner. At the utmost extremity of your Line, where the Hook is always plac'd in all other ways of Angling, you are to have a large Pistol, or Carabine Bullet, into which the end of your Line is to be fastned with a Peg, or Pin even and close with the Bullet, and about half a foot above that, a branch of Line, of two, or three handfuls long; or more, for a swift stream, with a Hook at the end thereof baited with some of the forenamed worms, and another half foot above that another arm'd, and baited after the same manner; but with another sort of worm, without any lead at all above: by which means you will always certainly find the true bottom in all depths, which with the Plums upon your Line above you can never do, but that your bait must always drag whilst you are sounding (which in this way of Angling must be continually) by which means you are like to have more trouble, and peradventure worse success. And both these ways of Angling at the bottom are most proper for a dark, and muddy water, by reason that in such a condition of the stream, a Man may stand as near as he will, and neither his own shadow; nor the roundness of his Tackle will hinder his sport.

The third way of Angling by hand with a Ground-bait, and by much the best of all other, is, with a Line full as long, or a yard and half longer than your Rod, with no more than one hair next the hook, and for two or three lengths above it, and no more than one small pellet of shot for your plum, your Hook little, your worms of the smaller Brand-

lings very well scour'd, and only one upon your hook at a time, which is thus to be baited. The point of your hook is to be put in at the very tagg of his tail, and run up his body quite over all the arming, and still stript on an inch at least upon the hair, the head and remaining part hanging downward; and with this line and hook thus baited you are evermore to angle in the streams, always in a clear rather than a troubled water, and always up the River, still casting out your worm before you with a light one-handed Rod, like an artificial Flie, where it will be taken, sometimes at the top, or within a very little of the *Superficies* of the water, and almost always before that light plumb can sink it to the bottom, both by reason of the stream, and also that you must always keep your worm in motion by drawing still back towards you, as if you were angling with a flie; and believe me, whoever will try it, shall find this the best way of all other to angle with a worm, in a bright water especially; but then his rod must be very light and pliant, and very true and finely made, which with a skilful hand will do wonders, and in a clear stream is undoubtedly the best way of angling for a Trout, or Grayling with a worm, by many degrees, that any man can make choice of, and of most ease and delight to the Angler. To which let me add, that if the Angler be of a constitution that will suffer him to wade, and will slip into the tail of a shallow stream, to the Calf of the leg or the knee, and so keep off the bank, he shall almost take what fish he pleases.

The second way of angling at the bottom is

with a Cork or float ; and that is also of two sorts.

With a worm :

or,

With a Grub or Caddis.

With a worm you are to have your line within a foot, or a foot and half as long as your rod, in a dark water with two, or if you will with three ; but in a clear water never with above one hair next the hook, and two or three for four or five lengths above it, and a worm of what size you please, your plums fitted to your Cork, your Cork to the condition of the River (that is to the swiftness or slowness of it) and both, when the water is very clear, as fine as you can, and then you are never to bait with above one of the lesser sort of Brandlings ; or, if they are very little ones indeed, you may then bait with two after the manner before directed.

When you angle for a Trout, you are to do it as deep, that is, as near the bottom as you can, provided your bait do not drag, or if it do, a Trout will sometimes take it in that posture : if for a Grayling, you are then to fish further from the bottom, he being a fish that usually swims nearer to the middle of the water, and lyes alwaies loose : or however is more apt to rise than a Trout, and more inclin'd to rise than to descend even to a Ground-bait.

With a Grub or Caddis, you are to angle with the same length of Line ; or if it be all out as long as your Rod, 'tis not the worse, with never above on

hair for two or three lengths next the hook, and with the smallest Cork, or float, and the least weight of plumb you can that will but sink, and that the swiftness of your stream will allow; which also you may help, and avoid the violence of the Current, by angling in the returnes of a stream, or the Eddies betwixt two streams, which also are the most likely places wherein to kill a Fish in a stream, either at the top or bottom.

Of Grubs for a Grayling, the Ash-Grub, which is plump, milk-white, bent round from head to tail, and exceeding tender with a red head; or the Dock worm, or Grub of a pale yellow, longer, lanker, and tougher than the other, with rows of feet all down his belly, and a red head also are the best, I say for a Grayling, because, although a Trout will take both these (the Ash-Grub especially) yet he does not do it so freely as the other, and I have usually taken ten Graylings for one Trout with that bait, though if a Trout come, I have observed, that he is commonly a very good one.

These baits we usually keep in Bran, in which an Ash-Grub commonly grows tougher, and will better endure baiting, though he is yet so tender, that it will be necessary to warp in a piece of a stiff hair with your arming, leaving it standing out about a straw breadth at the head of your hook, so as to keep the Grub either from slipping totally off when baited, or at least down to the point of the hook, by which means your arming will be left wholly naked and bare, which is neither so sightly, nor so likely to be taken; though to help that (which will however

very oft fall out) I always arm the hook I design for this Bait with the whitest horse-hair I can chuse, which it self will resemble, and shine like that bait, and consequently will do more good, or less harm than an arming of any other colour. These Grubs are to be baited thus, the hook is to be put in under the head or Chaps of the bait, and guided down the middle of the belly without suffering it to peep out by the way (for then (the Ash-Grub especially) will issue out water and milk, till nothing but the skin shall remain, and the bend of the hook will appear black through it) till the point of your hook come so low, that the head of your bait may rest, and stick upon the hair that stands out to hold it, by which means it can neither slip of it self; neither will the force of the stream, nor quick pulling out, upon any mistake, strip it off.

Now the Caddis, or Cod-bait (which is a sure killing bait, and for the most part, by much, surer, than either of the other) may be put upon the Hook, two or three together, and is sometimes (to very great effect) joyn'd to a worm, and sometimes to an Artificial Flie to cover the point of the Hook; but is always to be Angled with at the bottom (when by it self especially) with the finest Tackle; and is for all times of the year, the most holding bait of all other whatever, both for Trout, and Grayling.

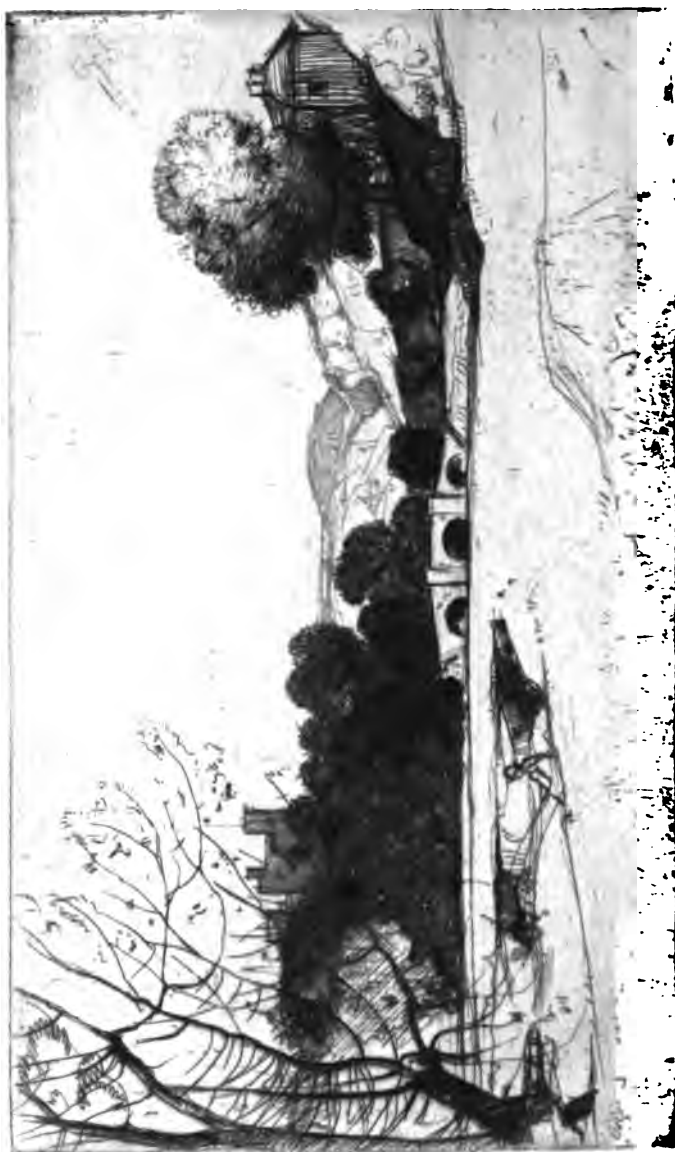
There are several other baits besides these few I have nam'd you, which also do very great execution at the bottom, and some that are peculiar to certain Countries, and Rivers, of which every Angler may in his own place, make his own observation: and some

others that I do not think fit to put you in mind of, because I would not corrupt you, and would have you, as in all things else I observe you to be a very honest Gentleman, a fair Angler. And so much for the second sort of Angling for a Trout at the bottom.

Viat. But Sir, I beseech you give me leave to ask you one question, Is there no art to be us'd to worms, to make them allure the Fish, and in a manner compel them to bite at the bait.

Pisc. Not that I know of; or did I know any such secret, I would not use it my self, and therefore would not teach it you. Though I will not deny to you, that in my younger days, I have made tryal of Oyl of Ospray, Oyl of Ivy, Camphire, Assa-fætida, juice of Nettles, and several other devices that I was taught by several Anglers I met with, but could never find any advantage by them; and can scarce believe there is any thing to be done that way, though I must tell you I have seen some men, who I thought went to work no more artificially than I, and have yet with the same kind of worms I had, in my own sight taken five, and sometimes ten for one. But we'll let that business alone if you please; and because we have time enough, and that I would deliver you from the trouble of any more Lectures, I will, if you please, proceed to the last way of angling for a Trout or Grayling, which is in the middle; after which I shall have no more to trouble you with.

Viat. 'Tis no trouble, *Sir*, but the greatest satisfaction that can be, and I attend you.



On the Wye at Haddon

CHAP. XII.

PISC. Angling in the middle then for a Trout or Grayling is of two sorts.

With a Pink or Minnow for a Trout :

or,

With a Worm, Grub or Caddis for a Grayling.

For the first, it is with a Minnow half a foot, or a foot within the *Superficies* of the water, and as to the rest that concerns this sort of angling, I shall wholly refer you to Mr. *Walton's* direction, who is undoubtedly the best Angler with a Minnow in *England* ; only in plain truth I do not approve of those baits he keeps in salt, unless where the Living

ones are not possibly to be had (though I know he frequently kills with them, and peradventure more, than with any other, nay I have seen him refuse a living one for one of them) and much less of his artificial one ; for though we do it with a counterfeit flie, me thinks it should hardly be expected, that a man should deceive a fish with a counterfeit fish. Which having said, I shall only add, and that out of my own experience, that I doo believe a Bull-head, with his Guill-fins cut off (at some times of the year especially) to be a much better bait for a Trout, than a Minnow, and a Loach much better than that, to prove which I shall only tell you that I have much oftner taken Trouts with a Bull-head or a Loach in their Throats (for there a Trout has questionless his first digestion) than a Minnow ; and that one day especially, having Angled a good part of the day with a Minnow, and that in as hopeful a day, and as fit a water, as could be wisht for that purpose, without raising any one Fish ; I at last fell to't with the worm, and with that took fourteen in a very short space, amongst all which, there was not to my remembrance, so much as one, that had not a Loach or two, and some of them three, four, five, and six Loaches, in his throat and stomach ; from whence I concluded, that had I Angled with that bait, I had made a notable days work of't.

But after all, there is a better way of Angling with a Minnow, than perhaps is fit either to teach or to practice ; to which I shall only add, that a Grayling will certainly rise at, and sometimes take a Minnow, though it will be hard to be believ'd by

any one, who shall consider the littleness of that Fishes mouth, very unfit to take so great a bait: but is affirm'd by many, that he will sometimes do it, and I my self know it to be true, for though I never took a Grayling so, yet a Man of mine once did, and within so few paces of me, that I am as certain of it, as I can be of any thing I did not see, and (which made it appear the more strange) the Grayling was not above eleven inches long.

I must here also beg leave of your Master, and mine, not to controvert, but to tell him, that I cannot consent to his way of throwing in his Rod to an overgrown Trout, and afterwards recovering his Fish with his Tackle. For though I am satisfied he has sometimes done it, because he says so; yet I have found it quite otherwise, and though I have taken with the Angle, I may safely say, some thousands of Trouts in my life, my top never snapt, though my Line still continued fast to the remaining part of my Rod (by some lengths of Line curl'd round about my top, and there fastned with waxt silk, against such an accident) nor my hand never slackt, or slipt by any other chance, but I almost always infallibly lost my Fish, whether great, or little, though my Hook came home again. And I have often wondred how a Trout should so suddainly disengage himself from so great a Hook, as that we bait with a Minnow, and so deep bearded, as those Hooks commonly are, when I have seen by the forenam'd accidents, or the slipping of a knot in the upper part of the Line, by suddain, and hard striking, that though the Line has immediately been recover'd, almost before it could be all drawn into the water,

the Fish clear'd, and gone in a moment. And yet to justifie what he says, I have sometimes known a Trout, having carried away a whole Line, found dead three, or four days after with the Hook fast sticking in him: but then it is to be suppos'd he had gorg'd it, which a Trout will do, if you be not too quick with him when he comes at a Minnow, as sure and much sooner than a Pike; and I my self have also, once, or twice in my life, taken the same Fish with my own-Flie sticking in his Chaps, that he had taken from me the day before, by the slipping of a Hook in the arming: but I am very confident a Trout will not be troubled two hours with any Hook, that has so much as one handful of Line left behind with it, or that is not struck through a bone, if it be in any part of his mouth only; nay, I do certainly know, that a Trout so soon as ever he feels himself prick't, if he carries away the Hook, goes immediately to the bottom, and will there root like a Hog upon the Gravel, till he either rub out, or break the Hook in the middle. And so much for this first sort of Angling in the middle for a Trout.

The second way of Angling in the middle, is with a Worm, Grub, Caddis, or any other Ground-bait for a Grayling, and that is with a Cork, and a foot from the bottom, a Grayling taking it much better there, than at the bottom, as has been said before; and this always in a clear water, and with the finest Tackle.

To which we may also, and with very good reason, add the third way of Angling by hand with a Ground-bait, as a third way of Fishing in the middle, which

is common to both Trout, and Grayling, and (as I said before) the best way of Angling with a Worm, of all other I ever try'd whatever.

And now Sir, I have said all I can at present think of concerning Angling for a Trout and Grayling; and I doubt not, have tir'd you sufficiently: but I will give you no more trouble of this kind, whilst you stay, which I hope will be a good while longer.

Viat. That will not be above a day longer; but if I live till *May* come twelve Month, you are sure of me again, either with my Master *Walton*, or without him, and in the mean time shall acquaint him how much you have made of me for his sake, and I hope he loves me well enough, to thank you for it.

Pisc. I shall be glad *Sir*, of your good Company at the time you speak of and shall be loath to part with you now; but when you tell me you must go, I will then wait upon you more Miles on your way, than I have tempted you out of it, and heartily wish you a good Journey.

FINIS.

To my most Honoured Friend,
Charles Cotton, Esq ;

S I R,

YOU Now see, I have return'd you, your very pleasant, and useful discourse of the Art of *Flie-Fishing*, Printed, just as 'twas sent me : for I have been so obedient to your desires, as to endure all the praises you have ventur'd to fix upon me in it. And, when I have thank't you for them, as the effects of an undissembled love : then, let me tell you *Sir*, that I will really endeavour to live up to the Character you have given of me, if there were no other reason ; yet for this alone, that you, that love me so well ; and always think what you speak, may not, for my sake, suffer by a mistake in your Judgment.

And *Sir*, I have ventur'd to fill a part of your Margin, by way of Paraphrase, for the Readers clearer understanding the situation both of your *Fishing-House*, and the pleasantness of that you dwell in. And I have ventur'd also to give him a Copy of Verses, that, you were pleas'd to send me, now

some Years past; in which, he may see a good Picture of both; and, so much of your own mind too, as will make any Reader that is blest with a Generous Soul, to love you the better. I confess, that for doing this, you may justly Judg me too bold: if you do, I will say so too: and so far commute for my offence, that, though I be more than a hundred Miles from you, and in the eighty third Year of my Age, yet I will forget both, and next Month begin a Pilgrimage to beg your pardon, for, I would dye in your favour: and till then will live.

Sir,

London, *April.*
29th. 1676.

Your most affectionate

Father and Friend,

Izaak Walton.

To my most Honoured Friend,
Charles Cotton, Esq ;

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London, *April.*
19th. 1676.

Your most affectionate

Father and Friend,

Izaak Walton.

On the Wye at Haddon

CHAP. XII.

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"Visitation de Seleburne" (1387) severe censure is passed on those canons who were professed hunters and sportsmen, engaging in dissipation hurtful to the soul, body, and purse; and they were enjoined not to keep hounds within the convent or without. Gilbert White, in his "Antiquities of Selborne," remarks: "If the bishop was so offended at these sporting canons, what would he have said to our modern fox-hunting divines?" Angling, indeed, though quite as engrossing as either shooting or fox-hunting, seems always to have been a field sport which clergymen may enjoy, immune from the least reproach or criticism. Bishops themselves have set the excellent example.

P. 67. "I love to kill nothing but Fish." One or two of the creatures on this black list are, I think, innocent enough of any injury to fish; but, in any case, Walton's resolve to "let them be quarrelled with and killed by others" is only what one would expect in so lovable a man. Herein we seem to see the first protest, gentle though it be, against the excessive sacrifice to fish and game, which is such an unpleasant feature of some—I am glad to say, far from all—of our preserved waters and coverts. Too many herons, otters, waterfowl, and kingfishers cannot be suffered to prey on our fish and their spawn and fry, lest there be a wholesale sacrifice, not to, but of the trout. But we must be moderate in this matter, and, whilst keeping within bounds the creatures which—if suffered to exist in too large numbers—play havoc in preserves, at the same time be very careful not to take wild life recklessly. There is something dismal and wrong about a stream that has lost its last kingfisher, about a large wood with never a hawk or jay.

P. 82. "This Trout is thought to eat nothing in the fresh water." Supposing the Fordidge trout to be a sea-trout or a bull-trout, Walton in this observation may have been very near the discoveries two centuries later of Miescher Ruesch, set forth and added to in the invaluable "Report of Investigations on the Life History of Salmon," by the Fishery Board for Scotland in 1898—at least, if what is true of the salmon in this matter of feeding is in the main true also of those sea-going trout.

P. 86. "Reach me that Landing Net." Walton will not let such a beginner as Venator do more than hand him the net.

P. 88. "As I left this place." In the first edition this passage is not nearly so beautiful. Therein it merely runs: "'Twas a handsome milkmaid, that cast away all care, and sang like a *Nightingale*," etc.

P. 89. "Sillybub of new Verjuice." "Sillybub of new Verjuice" sounds tart, but refreshing. It was a dish made by mixing the acid liquor

expressed from crab apples with cream or milk, and so causing a soft curd. The wild apple, by the way, is not always too tart to eat raw. Once, whilst roaming the grand country that gives that pure trout-stream, the Lambourne, its head waters, I found some rosy and yellow wild apples, which were very good to eat. In some of the farm orchards and cottage gardens of Wiltshire an apple, very like the crab, only a little sweeter, grows in great abundance some seasons. (Syllabub of new verjuice does not appear at this place in the first edition of "The Compleat Angler.")

P. 91. "If all the world and Love were young." Those who are curious as to the authorship of these very pretty verses should consult Sir H. Nicolas' 1836 edition of Walton's "Compleat Angler," and also Mr Hannah's scholarly little volume, "Poems by Sir Henry Wotton, Sir Walter Raleigh, and Others." Pickering: 1845.

P. 95. "This *Trout* looks lovely." The genuine old Lea trout at and above Hatfield is, with his black spots, not a particularly beautiful fish to look at, but his shape is good, and, when in prime condition, his flesh is as pink, and, to my mind, as good to eat as a salmon's. Owing to the constant introduction of new blood, this fish is not abundant now.

P. 111. "I pray, put that Net under him." Venator is getting on. Walton now does not ask Venator to hand him the net, but to put it under the fish, a somewhat risky thing, by the way, for anyone to do, let alone a novice.

P. 115. "A Gentleman that hath spent much time in fishing." In the first edition, after "time," we have "and money."

P. 115. "To Angle with one hair." To this day there are anglers who prefer horsehair to gut for fine angling, and who, in fishing the Wharfe and other rivers, trust to a single hair; and that must be a very pretty sport. They are careful, however, not to let the trout, when hooked, get below them; whereas, as we see below, Barker fished down stream.

P. 115. "Will be the least offensive to the Fish." This must always be one of the golden rules of fly-fishing for trout in clear waters. It is no use hiding yourself while you expose your rod. There is much in these directions which goes to show that Barker was a master.

P. 117. "If he sees the *Trouts* leap at a flie of that kind." It is now well known, of course, that—putting aside spinners or spent flies, and a certain number of land insects, such as the cow-dung fly, which fall into the stream by mishap—the vast majority of flies taken by trout

do not fall on the water, but rise up through it, and float or sail with the current. But the expression, "leap at a fie," is literally true of what takes place sometimes. Trout have been seen to leap out of the water at insects flying about in great numbers a few inches above the surface of the stream. I have seen trout of a pound or so in weight do this in the Mimram between Welwyn and Codicote in Hertfordshire.

P. 118. "Shall be a little superstitious." Absolutely sound; for if the fly hatches in any quantities, the trout, as a rule, will rise, no matter from what quarter the wind comes; and fly often does hatch freely when the wind is neither in the south nor west.

P. 119. "Let no part of your line touch the water." "Ephemera," in his edition of "The Compleat Angler," declares this "impossible, unless you dip with the artificial as with the natural fly, which is never practised." But I see no reason why anglers of that time, with their immensely long rods, should not often, given a favouring wind, have wafted their artificial flies over the water to trout.

P. 121. "Those primitive Christians." Cf. Walton's description of his second wife on the tablet at Worcester Cathedral as "A woman of . . . the *Primitive Piety*."

P. 123. "No life, my honest Scholar." This passage is a great improvement on such part of it as appears in the first edition, where it runs: "No life, my honest scholar, no life so happy and so pleasant as the anglers, unless it be the beggars life in Greece; for there only they take no care, but are as happy as we anglers."

P. 124. "The Angler's Wish." These verses, which Hawkins thought might well be Walton's own, do not appear in the first edition.

P. 128. "Unless he had been fellow to the great Trout." This may very well have been the great trout referred to in the "Northern Memoirs" (1693). "A Trout also was taken in the River at Ware, and presented to Charles the First, then King of England, which Trout was of such a vast Proportion, as would seem incredible for me to report; which for any man's satisfaction the Figure of it yet remains (for ought I know) at the *George Inn* in Ware, to convince the Incrédulous, if any be suspicious."

P. 132. "Clear, pleasant Brooks." So early as 1653 Walton probably did not know the Hampshire waters very well, if, indeed, he knew them at all. Hence, in the first edition, he contents himself with saying that "Hampshire . . . I think, exceeds all England for pleasant Brooks."

"THE COMPLEAT ANGLER" 209

"Swift, shallow, clear, pleasant Brooks" shows that by 1676 he knew at least the Itchen very well indeed.

P. 137. "Which runs by *Salisbury*." It was the Salisbury Avon that gave the Test its grayling. There is some difference of opinion as to whether the first consignment was put into the Test at Longstock or Leckford. In the Wylde, close to Salisbury, grayling are now very abundant.

P. 143. "Some use a wheel." In the first edition this passage relating to the "wheel" is wanting.

VOL. II. P. 24. "The Eel seldom stirs in the day." The eel will feed occasionally in broad daylight. On a bright summer day I once watched an eel grubbing about close to the bank of a clear stream. The instant it caught sight of or *heard* me, it was gone.

P. 33. "A good *Sillybub*." Franck, in one of the savage references to Walton in "The Contemplative and Practical Angler," seems wishful of writing him down a glutton because of the cookery recipes in "The Compleat Angler." Nothing could less convey the impression of gluttony than what Walton has to say about things to eat. The strictest vegetarian might surely have sat at table with Walton, and taken little offence at the sight of the eatables and drinkables the angler commended. A cup of milk from the red cow, a dish of frumenty or furmenty, a syllabub of new verjuice—how little of the glutton or the sybarite there is about these fresh, simple, and wholesome country things.

P. 43. "But Master, first let me tell you." The whole of this charming passage, to the end of the verses quoted below, is practically the same as it appeared twenty-three years before in the first edition.

P. 43. "*Culverkeys*." What were these culverkeys? It has been held that they were columbines. The columbine does grow wild in various parts of Hampshire, and Robert Turner, in his "Botanologia, the British Physician," published during Walton's lifetime, says: "I have seen both the white and the purple grow wilde in our meadows in *Hampshire*, where the ground is somewhat dry." Walton might possibly have seen it about Winchester. Still, so far as I know, there is no evidence to show that it was ever a common meadow flower of May. Cowslips have also been called culverkeys in some districts, but obviously they are not meant in this passage. The lovely pyramidal orchid has been suggested: that flower does grow in meadows about at least one of our Hampshire streamlets, but not in any quantities, and not in May. It is

highly unlikely that Walton was referring to the pyramidal orchid. On the whole, the flower suggested in the "English Dictionary on Historical Principles" is by far the most probable, namely, the wild hyacinth (*Scilla nutans*)—which, it seems, is at the present time called a culverkey in parts of Somersetshire. Dennys, in his "Secrets of Angling," printed in 1613, speaks of "azure culverkays," which, small doubt, was this hyacinth or bluebell that carpets many a spinney and coppice by the riverside in May.

P. 44. "*Phineas Fletcher*." Donne, Herbert, Wotton, and Waller, are all mentioned by Walton as anglers. Hawkins adds to the number Gay, who wrote of fishing and fly-making in his "Rural Sports." Sir John says Gay used to angle in the Kennet at Amesbury in Wiltshire—Kennet being evidently a slip for Avon.

P. 50. "I have said so little of Roach." . . . Mr Owen J. Gilbert of Winchester writes me this note on roach-fishing: "To angle successfully for the large roach in our Southern streams requires not only a considerable respect for the quarry—for they are no longer Walton's '*Water-sheep*'—but the greatest care and accuracy. Fine tackle is essential. The rod should be preferably of a dark hue, and gut casts as fine as is consistent with strength, and stained dark; while the best float for most roach-'*swims*' is a small porcupine quill, with the top painted white, and rendered almost self-cocking by the bottom ring being shotted—for the largest fish usually give the smallest indications. Roach hooks of white steel (size about No. 10), short in the shank, with the gut-end painted white, are best for baiting with paste, gentles, etc. The selection of the '*swim*' is important, large roach generally affecting the deepest holes and channels and those sheltered from the bank by weed-patches. Careful ground-baiting is essential in most streams (bread and bran well kneaded is good), and, above all, accurate plumbing of the depth, as roach usually feed on, or quite near, the bottom. The angler must keep out of sight, fish with the rod-top well over the float to ensure immediate '*striking*,' and bear in mind that any vibration of the bank is immediately perceptible to the timid roach. Finally, the fish *must* be played and landed below the '*swim*.'"

P. 51. "The best *Trout-Anglers*." This passage does not appear in the first edition. I think the Derbyshire anglers are—as well they need be—quite as skilful as the Hampshire anglers even to-day.

P. 58. "The spawn of most Fish." Barker, author of "*Barker's Delight*," whose excellent fly fishing directions have been referred to, knew the deadliness of spawn as bait. Writing to his patron, Lord Montague, he divulges the secret. He says he is bound on his honour not to carry

it to his grave, by which men of quality would be deprived of the delight—surely a case of hyper-conscientiousness.

P. 63. "*A little Tansie.*" Tansie, according to the old herbalists, had much virtue. John Gerard, in his "*Harbell*," which Walton refers to in this book, tells us: "In the Spring time are made with the leaves hereof newly sprung up, and with eggs, cakes or tansies which be pleasant in taste, and good for the stomacke." Culpepper, a contemporary of Walton's, gives us a tempting recipe for preserving cowslip flowers, which was in favour in Sussex "when I was a boy." "It is thus done, First, Take a flat Glass, we call them jar Glasses, strew in a laying of fine Sugar, on that a laying of flowers, on that another laying of Sugar, on that another laying of flowers, do so till your Glass be full; then tye it over with a paper, and in a little time you shall have very excellent and pleasant preserves."

P. 80. "*Well Scholar.*" The beautiful sermon that follows is not contained in the first edition.

P. 85. "He that loses his Conscience." Sir John Hawkins remarks of this saying by Nicholas Caussin, that it is worthy of Marcus Antoninus or Jeremy Taylor. In nobleness it ranks with Cassio's, "O, I have lost my reputation! I have lost the immortal part of myself, and what remains is bestial."

P. 87. "*Quivering fears.*" Sir Egerton Brydges gave these verses a very prominent place in his edition of Raleigh's poems, but, as the Rev. John Hannah pointed out in the "*Poems By Sir Henry Wotton, Sir Walter Raleigh and Others*" (Pickering), he produced no evidence to speak of to prove to us that they were Raleigh's. The verses are worthy a place beside the beautiful little poem by Wotton, beginning:

"How happy is he born and taught
That serveth not another's will,"

or Pope's

"Happy the man whose wish and care
A few paternal acres bound."

P. 88. "*Sir Harry Wotton.*" In the first and second editions, for "written by Sir *Harry Wotton*," we have "written by *Dr. Donne*." But in the third and succeeding ones Wotton's name appears in place of Donne's. Nicolas ascribed it to Sir Walter Raleigh when a prisoner in the Tower, shortly before his execution. On a copy in MS., formerly kept at the Ashmolean, but now, I believe, at the Bodleian, is the title "*Doctor Donn's Valediction to the Worlde.*" Finally, Sir Kenelm Digby has been

credited with the verses. Mr Hannah, while entirely discrediting Nicolas' view, leaves the authorship in doubt.

P. 91. "*Study to be quiet.*" In the first edition Piscator's last words run as follows:—"And the like be upon my honest scholer. And upon all that hate contentions, and love *quietnesse*, and *vertue*, and Angling." The text from Thessalonians is not given.

P. 118. "And yet these Hills." Much of the best mutton, milk and honey, comes, not from the rich pastures and valleys, but from the high wind-swept hills and downs of England, with their comparatively meagre vegetation.

P. 122. "The reddest, and the best Trouts." The flesh of the trout of the Lathkill, that fair little Derbyshire stream, is still of a very deep red.

P. 122. "A black water too." The Derwent, coming from the Derbyshire moors, is of a rich brown hue, in marked contrast at Rowsley (where is the meeting of the waters) to the Wye.

P. 123. "The safest way is to alight." It reminds one of William Cobbett's description of Hawkley Hanger in Hampshire early in the nineteenth century.

P. 137. "Roving up and down." The dry fly angler calls such fish "roamers."

P. 139. "*Fine and far off.*" "Near and fine" is a good maxim for the dry fly angler.

P. 149. "Till first you see him turn his head." Striking too soon, when one sees the fish rise at and apparently take the fly, is a common cause of failure when the single floating fly is the lure.

INDEX

INDEX

	PAGE
Adonis, the	I. 49
Albertus	II. 23
Aldrovandus	I. 108, 135, 136; II. 14, 27
Alresford	I. xxxiv, xxxv
Alton	I. xxxiv
Amerly trout, the	I. 82, 159
Amwell Hill	I. 61
Anglers, North Country	I. liii
Angler's Song	I. 98; II. 41, 46
" wish	I. 124
" " note on	II. 208
Angling allowed to clergymen	I. 55
" antiquity of	I. 40; II. 94
" "Arcadia" of	II. 98
" as an art	I. 1
" different ways of	II. 115
" excitement of	I. liv
" first inventor of	I. 41
" "Harmless Recreation," a, note on	II. 205
" in the days of Mark Antony	I. 55
" laws of	II. 93
" with a float	II. 135
Anne, Walton's daughter	I. xxxvi
Ant-fly, the	II. 52, 174
" where to find	II. 53
Anton, River	I. xlv
Antona of Tacitus	I. xlv
Anus, the Spanish River	I. 45
Aristotle	I. 45, 48, 52, 165
" on carp	I. 161
Arnold, Matthew	I. xlix
Arundel mullet, the	I. 82, 159
Ashborn	II. 109, 111, 114, 127
Ashmole, Elias	I. 46
" his cure for an ague	I. xxviii

	PAGE
Ausonius	I. 48
Aviaries in Italy	I. 29
Ayries	I. 32
BACON, SIR FRANCIS	I. 133, 141
" " on Eels	II. 21, 22
Bacon's (Sir F.) "History of Life and Death," I. 83, 140, 147, 164;	II. 4, 22
" " "Natural History"	I. 109, 132, 144
Bait for barbel	II. 31
" for bream	II. 5, 54
" for carp	I. 166
" for chub	I. 77; II. 58
" for eels	II. 24
" for grayling	I. 137
" for roach	II. 51, 53
" for ruffe	II. 36
" for salmon	I. 142
" a hook, how to	I. 103
" ledger-	I. 153
Balzna, the	I. 46
Barker, Thomas, on Artificial Flies	I. 119
" " on Fly-fishing	I. 115
Barley malt as ground bait	II. 7
Barm-fly	II. 173
Barnacles	I. 47
Barbel, the	I. 51
" how to catch	II. 32
" observations of	II. 29
" spawning time	II. 30
" why so called	II. 29
Bayley, Henry, to Izaak Walton	I. 15
Bay trees at the tomb of Virgil	I. 38
Bee, the	I. 30
Beetle, the, for chub-fishing	I. 76
Beggars, the	I. 124
Bently Brook	II. 119
Bird of Paradise, the	I. 47
Birds, angling for	II. 37
" as messengers	I. 30
" of pleasure	I. 29
" of political use	I. 30
Bishops Waltham	I. xxxvi
Bittern, the	I. 67

INDEX

217

PAGE

Blackberries as bait	II. 58
Blackbird, the	I. 29, 86
Black-fly, the	II. 165
Bleak, the	II. 36
„ as bait	II. 9
Boar, wild	I. 32, 34
Bockerel, the	I. 31
Bockeret, the	I. 31
Boles, the Royalist Colonel	I. xxxv
Boteler, Dr, on Strawberries	I. 123
Bradford, River	II. 121
Brancher, the	I. 32
Brandling worm, how to bait	II. 188
Bread for feeding fish	II. 74
„ paste	I. 168; II. 5, 13, 52
Bream	II. 3, 4, 8, 10, 11
Bream and roach mixing eggs	II. 4
Brelsford	II. 109
Bridgnorth, Master	I. xx
Brown, Moses	I. xxvii
Buck, the	I. 32, 34
Bull-head, the	II. 62, 64, 194
„ spawning time	II. 64
Bull-trout, the	I. 83
Butterflies	I. 107
Buzzard, the	I. 31
 Caddis, the	 II. 50, 58, 191
„ how to bait	II. 60
„ where bred	II. 60
Cambden	I. 64; II. 11, 22, 23, 28
„ on Rivers	I. 45
Cambden's "Britannia"	I. 140; II. 71
Camel-brown fly, the	II. 176
Camlet-fly, the	II. 173
Candovers, the valley of the	I. xxxvii
Cantharus, the	I. 50
Cardanus on Frogs	I. 154
Carp, the	I. 133, 160, 161, 162, 164, 166
„ bait for	II. 58
„ breeding	I. 161, 165; II. 75
„ how to catch	I. 169
„ how to dress	I. 169
„ spawning time	I. 164

INDEX

219

	PAGE
Davison's (Frank) Song	I. 127
Davors' (Jo.) verses on angling	I. 59
Dawkins, Mr	I. xliv
Dee, River	II. 28
Derwent, River	II. 120, 122
" " note on	II. 212
Diogenes at a Country Fair	II. 82
Dog-fish, the	I. 47
Dogs, docileness of	I. 34
Dolphin, the	I. 47
" his love of music	I. 46
" Donne, Walton's Life of"	I. xvi
Donne's verses	II. 18
Dorus	II. 151
Dorwent, River	II. 68
Douthwaite, William	I. xliii
Dove, River	II. 119, 126, 144, 152
" " grayling in	I. 137
Dovedale, journey through	I. xxi
Drake-fly, the	I. 115
Drayton's (Michael) "Polyalbion"	I. 140
" " sonnets	II. 69
Droxford	I. xxxiv
Dryden's belief in astrology	I. xxviii
Dubartas	I. 49; II. 22
" quotation from	I. 48, 110
" song of the mullet	I. 51
Dubravius, Janus	II. 73, 75
Dubravius' "Book of Fish"	I. 150, 164, 165
Du Moulin, P.	I. 44
Dun-fly, the	I. 114; II. 157 to 161, 163, 175
Dup, Jaco, to Izaak Walton	I. 18
 EAGLE, the	 I. 27, 31
Eel, the	I. 132; II. 20, 23, 27
" how to catch	II. 24, 25
" how to dress	II. 26
" in the Ganges	I. 46
" note on	II. 209
" silver-	II. 24
Eires, the	I. 32
Elephant, the	I. 33, 162
Elusina, River	I. 45
Ely, Isle of	II. 22

	PAGE
"Ephemera's" edition of "The Compleat Angler"	I. xxiv, xxv
Epirus, river in	I. 45
"Epistle to the Reader"	I. xviii
FALCON, the	I. 27, 31
Farnham	I. xxxiv, xxxv
Fence months, the	I. 66
Fern-fly, the	II. 176
Ferret, the	I. 33
Fichat, the	I. 33
Fish, art of catching	I. 5
" as the best diet	I. 37
" hooks	I. 42
" laws against the destruction of	I. 66; II. 94
" note on	II. 206
" observations of	II. 67
" their enemies	I. 67
" without scales	II. 20
Fish-ponds	II. 72
Fishes in the Nile	II. 70
" of prey	II. 14
Fishing rights	I. xlv
" with a dead rod	I. 123
Flesh-fly, the	II. 174
Fletcher, Phineas, note on	II. 210
Fletcher's verses	II. 44
Flies, artificial	I. 114; II. 141
" as bait	I. 106
" for chub	I. 76
" observations of	II. 156
" of prey	I. 108
" peculiar, in Wales	I. 6
Floats	II. 6
Floud, J., to Izaak Walton	I. 7
" Robert, to Izaak Walton	I. 14
Flounder, the	II. 27
Fly, chamblet-	II. 136
" thorn-tree	II. 159
Fly-fishing	I. 6, 115; II. 134, 136
" for bleaks	II. 37
" for roach	II. 52
" for trout	I. 119
" note on	II. 207, 212
Fordidge trout, the	I. 81, 82, 85

221

	PAGE
Fordidge trout, note on	II. 206
Fox, the	I. 32, 34
Franck's argument with Walton	I. xxiv
" "Northern Memoirs"	I. xxiv
" " "note on	II. 208
Freefolk, village of	I. xlviii
Frogs, different kinds of	I. 154
" fishing-	I. 151
" land-	I. 151
" on the heads of carp	I. 163
" venomous	I. 154
" water-	I. 151, 154; II. 74
Fulimart, the	I. 33
GALLS as medicine	I. 165
Gasius	II. 30
Geneva, trout in Lake	I. 80
Gentles	I. 168; II. 5, 13, 32, 51, 54
" how to breed	II. 54
" how to preserve	II. 54
Gerarde	II. xxvii
Gerarde's "Herbal"	II. 22
Gerfalcon, the	I. 31
Gesner,	I. 48, 52; II. 22, 30
" on barbel	II. 29
" " bream	II. 3, 4
" " bull-head	II. 64
" " carp	I. 164
" " grayling	I. 135, 136
" " loach	II. 64
" " otters	I. 64, 132, 144
" " perch	II. 14
" " pike	I. 147, 149, 159, 160
" " trout	I. 80
Gesner's quotation from Albertus	II. 23
Gorrara, the	I. 67
Goshawk, the	I. 31
Grange Park,	I. xxxvii
Grashopper, the	I. 74, 75, 76; II. 5, 174
Grayling, angling for	II. 134, 183, 185, 189, 193
" Cotton's instructions as to	I. xxi
" in Switzerland	I. 135
" observations of	I. 135
" season	I. 137; II. 150, 155

	PAGE
Grayling, shape of	I. 134
Green drake fly	II. 136, 162, 164, 165, 177, 178
" " artificial	II. 167
" " derivation of the name	II. 166
" " how to bait	II. 166
Grey drake fly	II. 168
Grey, Sir Edward, on "The Compleat Angler"	I. xvi
Grigs	II. 23
Grotius' "Sopham"	II. 71
Ground-bait	II. 7, 135, 186, 187, 196
Grub, the	I. 11
" how to bait	II. 191
Gudgeon as bait	I. 157; II. 9
" breeding time	II. 34
" observations of	II. 35
" with a running line	II. 36
Guiniad, the	II. 28
Gum of ivy	I. 157
Gypsies, the	I. 126
HACKLE-FLY, the	II. 157, 158, 160, 163, 174, 175, 176
Hackwel, Dr	II. 22
Hackwel's "Apology"	I. 133
Haggard, the	I. 32
Hair, bears	II. 146, 158
" best colour of	II. 79
" for making a line	II. 78
" how to dye	II. 79
Hale's "Private School of Defence"	I. 5
Hampshire, Nature in	I. xxviii
" waters of	I. xxxv
Hare, the	I. 32, 34
Harvie, Ch., to the Reader	I. 8
Hastings, Sir George	I. 81, 145; II. 56
Hawk, the	I. 22, 28, 31, 86
Hawkins, Dr	I. xxxvi
" William	I. xlv, xlv
Hawkley Hanger, dangers of	I. xxi
" " note on	II. 212
Hawthorne-fly, artificial	I. 119
Hen-driver, the	I. 31
Henley Bridge	II. 52
" Oliver	I. 143
Henmore, River	II. 117

INDEX

223

	PAGE
Herbert, George, quotation from	I. 47
Herbert's verses	I. 121
Hermit-fish, the	I. 49
Hern, the	I. 67
" caught with a minnow	II. 37
Herring, the	I. 135
Herrings at Yarmouth	II. 71
Hertfordshire, Nature in	I. xxviii
Heylin, Dr	II. 69
Heylin's (Dr) Geography	II. 67
Hobby, the	I. 31
Hodsden, Thatcht House at	I. 21, 40, 60
Hog-fish, the	I. 47
Horsehair, note on	II. 207
Hortensius	II. 22
Hounds	I. 23
Howitt's " Rural Life of England "	I. xix, xxvi
Humber, River	II. 68, 121
Humberabus, River	II. 69
Hunting, on	I. 32, 33, 55
IRON, the	I. 31
Iais, fishing in the	I. xxxvi
Itchen, River	I. xxxvi
" Stoke	I. xxxvii
" valley of the	I. xxxiv, xxxv
JACK, the	I. 31
Jackson, Captain Henry	II. 143
Jefferies, Richard	I. xxviii, xxxi
Jefferies' " Amateur Poacher "	I. xxx
" " Gamekeeper at Home "	I. xxx
" Home	I. xxvi
" " Meadow Thoughts "	I. xxx
" " My old Village "	I. xxx
" " Pageant of Summer "	I. xxx
" " Story of My Heart "	I. xxx, xxxi
Jerkin, the	I. 31
Jonson, Ben	I. 127
Jovius on Carp	I. 162
Judea, river in	I. 45
KEN, Thomas	I. xxxvi
Killingworth Pond	I. 148
Kingfisher, the	I. 67; II. 59, 75

	PAGE
LAKE Thrasimene in Italy	I. 159
Lamb, Charles	I. xxix
Lamprey, the	I. 37
„ belonging to a Roman emperor	II. 22
„ where found	II. 24
Land-snake, breeding of	I. 151
Laner, the	I. 31
Laneret, the	I. 31
Lathkin, River	II. 121
Laverstoke Park	I. xlvii
Lea-trout, note on	II. 207
Leather-mouthed fish	I. 76; II. 51
Lebault, Dr	II. 74, 75
Lebault's "Mason Rustique"	II. 72
Leman, Lake	I. 135
Lemster, Hertfordshire	I. 134
Lessius, quotation from	I. 113
Leverock, the	I. 29
Lice as a cure for jaundice	II. 12
Line, directions for making	II. 77
„ length of	II. 139
Linnet, the	I. 29
Livy, monuments of	I. 38
Loach, the	II. 62, 194
„ breeding time	I. 161
„ shape of	II. 63
Lobel	II. 22
Lochmere, river in	I. 45
Luce or pike, observations of	I. 146
MACROBIUS, writings of	I. 37
Malt as bait	II. 54
Margrave, Mr	II. 57
Marlin, the	I. 31
Marlow, Kit.	I. 88
Marston's (R. B.) "Walton and Some Earlier Writers on Fishing and Fishing"	I. xxii, lxvi
Martial, verse from	I. 133
Mascal, Mr, of Plumsted	I. 160
Matthiolus	II. 65
May-fly	I. 117; II. 52, 162, 164, 172, 173
„ artificial, how to make	I. 119
„ where to find	I. 120
Medway, River	II. 68

INDEX

225

	PAGE
Meon, River	I. xxxvii
„ salmon in the	I. xxxvi
„ sea-trout in the	I. xxxvi
Meonwaras, land of the	I. xxxvi
Mercator on Trout	I. 80
Mewings	I. 32
Milkmaid, the, note on	II. 206
Milkmaid's mother's song	I. 91
„ song	I. 90, 92
Minnow, the	I. 77, 87, 104, 137, 142; II. 17, 62, 63, 65, 134, 193
„ artificial, how to make	I. 105
„ how to bait hook with	I. 104
„ Tansies, how to make	II. 63
Mole, River	I. 45
Moorish-fly	I. 114
Morley, Dr George	I. xxxiv, xxxviii
Moss for preserving worms	I. 102
Mould-warp, the	I. 33
Mountaigne concerning cats	I. 25
Mulberries as bait	II. 58
Mullet, the	I. 37
„ Dubartas' song of the	I. 51
Musket, the	I. 31
NICHOLAS, Sir Harris	I. xiv, xxxiv, xxxvi, xxxvii, xlv, lxx
Night-hooks, laying	I. 123
Nightingale, the	I. 29
Norington Farm	I. xxxvii, xxxviii, xlv, xlv
Northampton Farm	I. xxxviii, xlv
„ „ the lease of	I. xxxix, xlv, lxxi
Northington	I. xxxvii, xlv
„ Farm	I. xxxvii
Nowel, Dr	I. 56
OAK-FLY, artificial, how to make	I. 119
Offley, John, to	I. 1
Oil of ivy berries	I. 144; II. 192
„ osprey	II. 192
„ Peter	I. 168
„ spike	I. 157
Oils for tempting fish	II. 56
“Old Familiar Faces, The”	I. xvi
Osprey, the	I. 67

	PAGE
Otter, the	I. 23, 32, 62
„ dogs	I. 23
„ hunters	I. 61
„ in the Ottersey	I. 64
„ taming	I. 65
Ottersey, River	I. 64
Ouse, River	II. 68
Owl-fly, the	II. 173
 PALM-FLY, the	II. 175
Palmer-fly, the, artificial	I. 119
Parakita bird, fly made from feathers of	I. 137
Parrot-fish	I. 47
Parsley for sick fish	II. 75
Pastes for fishing	I. 167
Paternoster line	II. 37
Peacock-fly, the	II. 163, 174
„ feathers, fly-making with	I. 120
Pemble-mere	II. 28
Penmen-maure	II. 126
Perch, the	II. 14, 15, 17
„ as bait for pike	I. 153
„ in the Isis	I. xxvi
Pigeons	I. 30, 63
Pike	I. 11, 146, 147, 148, 150, 152
„ bred from pickerel weed	I. xxv, 146
„ breeding of	I. 146
„ fight with an otter	I. 148
„ how to catch	I. 153
„ how to dress	I. 158
„ spawning time	I. 150
Pike-pool	II. 152
Pilcher, the	I. 135; II. 71
“Piscatoribus sacrum”	II. 131
Pismire, the	I. 33
Pliny	I. 46, 48, 52
„ on flies	I. 107
„ on frogs	I. 154
Plutarch on Angling	I. 55
Plutarch's “De industria animalium”	II. 31
Poe, River	II. 15
“Poets of Nature”	I. xxx
Pole-cat, the	I. 33
Polahott, Wiltshire	I. xxxviii

INDEX

227

	PAGE
Portal, Joseph	I. xlv, xlv
„ Melville, of Laverstoke	I. xlv, xlv, xlv
„ W.	I. xlv
Powel, Edward, to the Reader	I. 14
Poyson-fish, the	I. 47
Prayer, verses on the book of	I. 122
Puet, the	I. 67
 RALEIGH, Sir Walter	 I. 88
Raleigh's Poems, note on	II. 211
Ramish-hawk, the	I. 32
Raven, the	I. 30, 31
Retirement, the	II. 200
Rickabies of Ware	I. 129
Ringtail, the	I. 31
River carp	I. 167
Rivers, on	I. 5, 45; II. 21, 67, 112
„ note on	II. 205
“ River Swallow,” the	II. 37
Roach, the	I. 149; II. 39, 50, 51
„ as bait	I. 153, 157; II. 9
„ note on	II. 210
“ Roamers,” note on	II. 212
Robin, the	I. 29
Rod, directions for colouring	II. 76
„ length for trout	II. 138
Rondelitus	I. 48; II. 30
„ on eels	II. 21, 22
„ on perch	II. 15
„ on tench	II. 12
Rook, the	I. 31
Ropley	I. xxxiv
Rud, the	II. 51
Ruddy-fly, the	I. 114
Ruff-coat, the	II. 59
Ruffe, the : its shape	II. 36
Rutilus	II. 50
 SABRINA River	 II. 68
Sacaret, the	I. 31
Sadlers, Mr, of Amwell-hill	I. 23
Saint Austin's “ Confessions ”	II. 90
Saker, the	I. 31
Salamander, the	I. 47

	PAGE
Salisbury Cathedral, Canon of	I. xliv
" " library	I. lxvi
Salmon, the	I. 138, 140, 141
" bait for	I. 102
" season	I. 5, 142
" spawning time	I. 66, 138
" Salmon-leap," the	I. 140
Salmon-trout, the	I. 83
Samlet, the	I. 80, 145
Sandis' (G.) "Travels"	I. 30
Sargus, the	I. 49
Scoffers, on	I. 24
Scott's Poems and Stories	I. xxvi
" Sea-Angler," the	I. 49
Seagrave, Mich.	I. 65, 148
Sea-gull, the	I. 67
Selarus, River	I. 45
Selborne	I. xxii, xxvi
" "Natural History of"	I. xxix
Seneca on Fish	I. 78
Severn, River	I. 5; II. 68
Shark, the	I. 47
Shawford Brook	I. xix, 124
Shelley, picture of, in the National Portrait Gallery	I. xiv
Shelley's lyrics	I. xxx
" "Ode to the West Wind"	I. xiv
Shell-fly	I. 115
" Shelsey cockle," the	I. 82, 159
Shepherd's (R. H.) "Waltoniana"	I. lxvi
Sidney, Sir Philip	II. 131
Sillybub, note on	II. 206, 209
Skegger, the	I. 139, 145
" trout	I. 80
Snails for chub-fishing	I. 75
Snakes, land-	I. 151
" water-	I. 151
Snig, the	II. 11
Snookes' (Mrs) tortoise	I. xxix
Solan goose, the	I. 47
Sparhawk, the	I. 31
Spawn as bait	II. 58
" note on	II. 210
Speed's map of Hampshire	I. xxxiv
Spittle-hill	II. 116

INDEX

229

PAGE

Stag, the	I. 32, 34
Stanyel, the	I. 31
Stelletto, the, of Spain	I. 31
Sticklebag, the	I. 105; II. 65
Stone-fly, the	I. 114; II. 164, 168, 170, 172, 177, 178
Stuart, Lord John	I. xxxv
Stubs, John	II. 57
"Study to be Quiet"	II. 91
" " note on	II. 212
Sturgeon	I. 37
" caviare	I. 165
Surrey, Nature in	I. xxviii
Sussex, mountains of	I. xxii
Swallows	I. 30
Swann, Richard	I. xliii
Sword-fish, the	I. 47
 TACKLE	 II. 57, 131
Tadpoles round the neck of a pike	I. 163
Tansie, note on	II. 211
Tarcel, the	I. 31
Tassel-gentel, the	I. 31
Tawny-fly	I. 114
Tecon, the	I. 145
Tench, the	I. 11; II. 11, 12
" as cure for the sick	II. 12
" how to catch	II. 13
Terstan, River, or Tærstan	I. xlv
Test, River, angling in	I. xlv, xlvii
" called the "Anton"	I. xlv
" note on	II. 209
" vale of the	I. xxxiv, xxxviii
Thames, River, its source	II. 67
" German poet's verses on	II. 68
Thompson's "Seasons"	I. xxx
Thoreau	I. xx
Thrassal, the	I. 29, 86
Titlark, the	I. 29
Titmouse, the	I. 86
Tivy, river	I. 140
"Tom of Bedlam"	I. 96
Topseel on caterpillars	I. 108
" on frogs	I. 154
Topseel's "History of Serpents"	I. 107

	PAGE
Tottenham High-cross	I. li; II. 57, 77, 80, 85, 86
" " Walton's sermon at	I. xxi, xxii
" Hill	I. 21
Tredescant's (John) collection	I. 46
Trent, River	II. 68, 120, 121, 122
" grayling in the	I. 137
Trespassing, laws on	II. 94, 95
Trisanton, River	I. xlv
Trout, the	I. 11, 76, 79, 80, 82, 85, 112, 118, 131, 132, 134, 142, 149; II. 134, 155, 185, 189, 193
" Cotton's instructions as to	I. xxi
" fly-fishing for	I. 6, 41
" how to dress	II. 183
" in the Lake of Lemane	I. xxv
" of Lathkill, note on	II. 212
" note on	II. 208
" spawning time	I. 83
Trout-hall	I. 67
" lice	I. 84
" spear	I. 133
" stream at Winchester	I. xxxvi
" " finest in England	I. xxxviii
" " in the Valley of the Wey	I. xxxiv
Turkey-fly	II. 163
Turtle dove, the	I. 30, 50
Tweed, River	II. 69
Tyne, River	II. 69
UMBER, the, derivation of the name	II. 150
Usk, River	I. 5
VAN HELMONT, Franck's quotation from	I. xxv
Varro's aviary, ruins of	I. 29
Varro, writings of	I. 37
Venables, Walton's praise of	I. xx
Verecundus	II. 90
Vernon, Sir Thomas	I. xliii
Verses in praise of music	II. 48
Virgil's Melibœus	I. 123
" Tityrus	I. 123
Virgin wax for preserving paste	I. 168
WALLER, Ed.	II. 48
Waltham Cross	I. 127
Waltonia	I. lxx

INDEX

231

	PAGE
Walton, Isaac, of Polshott	I. xxxviii, xxxix, xliv
Walton : a Chronology	I. lv
Walton, Izaak, age in which he lived	I. xxvii, xxviii
" " as Royalist	I. xx
" " compared with Jefferies	I. xxx
" " in Hampshire	I. xxxiii
" " portrait in the National Portrait Gallery	I. xiv, lxvi
" " stanzas to	II. 200
" " to	I. 16
" " to Cotton	II. 198
Walton's chamber in Cotton's house	II. 127
" devotion to the Crown	I. 20
" distaste for coarse company	I. 20
" journey to Derbyshire	I. 22
" Life of Donne	I. xvi
" "Lives"	I. xiv, xv, xix, xxiii, xxxii, xxxiii
" Prayer-book	I. lxvi
" Sermons	I. xxi
" signature	I. lxvii
" "simplicity"	I. xxiii
" style	I. lv
" wife, note on	II. 208
" will	I. xxiii, xxxvi, xxxvii, xxxviii, xlv, lxvi
Ware	I. 21
Waskite, the	I. 31
Wasp-fly, the	I. 114; II. 175
Wasps as bait	II. 55
Water-snake, breeding	I. 151
Weaver, Thomas, to Izaak Walton	I. 12
Well at Kerby	I. 45
Westwood's (Thomas) "Chronicle"	I. lxv
Wey, valley of the	I. xxxiv, xxxv
Whale, the	I. 37
" Jonah's	I. 39
Wharton, Dr	I. 38
" " fish dissected by	II. 70
Wheat bait	II. 58
Whitaker, Dr	I. 55
White, Gilbert	I. xxii, xxviii
White's old MSS.	I. xlv
" "Selborne"	I. xxii, xxvi
" style	I. xxviii
Wie, River	I. 5
Williamson's (S.) cuts to Howitt's "Rural Life of England"	I. xxvi

	PAGE
Williams, Sir Abraham	II. 15
Wiltshire, Nature in	I. xxviii
Winander-mere	II. 28
Winton, Bishop of	I. xxxvii
Winchester, Bishop of	I. xliii, xlv, xlv
„ Walton at	I. xxxvi
Woodward's "History of Hampshire"	I. xlv
Wordsworth, William	I. lii, liv
„ sonnet by	I. lxviii
Wordsworth's "Ode on the Intimations of Immortality"	I. xxx
Worms: Ash	II. 190
„ brandling	I. xxvi, 102; II. 17, 186, 188
„ case	I. 76
„ cod	I. 76, 84; II. 13
„ dew	II. 21
„ dock	II. 190
„ flag	II. 13
„ lob	I. 103, 131; II. 13
„ marsh	II. 13
„ palmer	I. 117
„ red	II. 5
„ straw	II. 59
„ for salmon fishing	I. 102
„ how to preserve	I. 102
Worthys, the	I. xxxv
Wotton, Sir Henry	I. 57, 58, 59; II. 37, 56, 88
„ note on	II. 211
„ Walton's admiration of	I. xxiii
Wotton's verses	II. 87
Wren, the	I. 86
Wye, River	II. 121
„ „ its source	II. 122
YELVERS in the Severn	II. 21

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